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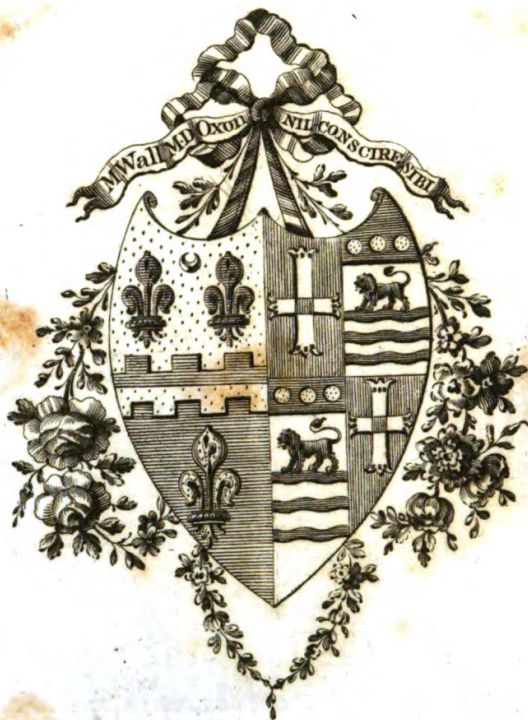






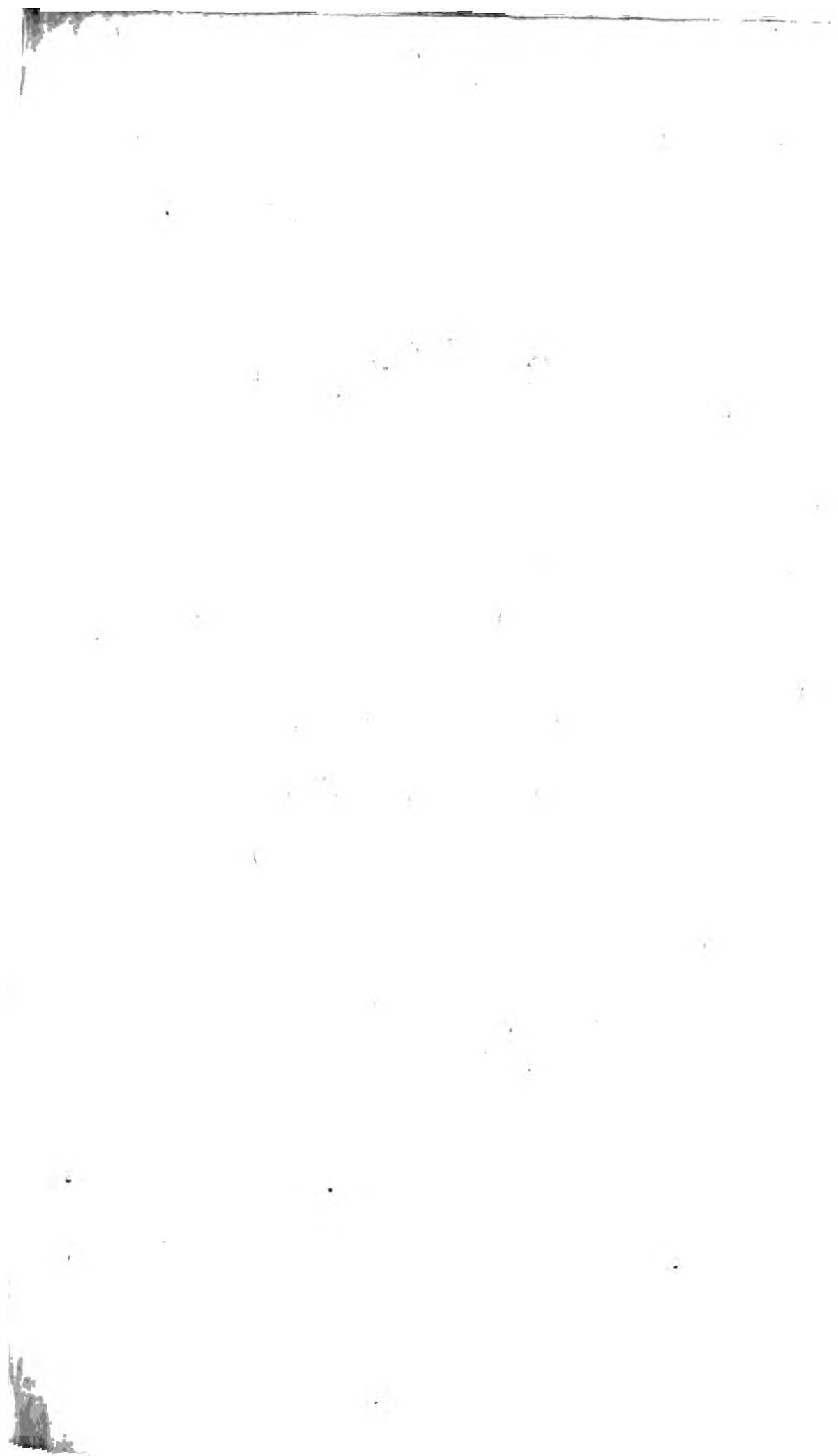
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T H E  
L O N D O N  
M E D I C A L J O U R N A L.

B Y  
A S O C I E T Y O F P H Y S I C I A N S.

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V O L. II.

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L O N D O N :

Printed by WILLIAM RICHARDSON in the Strand;

AND SOLD

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MDCCLXXXII.



## P R E F A C E.

**A**FTER completing two volumes of their Journal, the Society find it necessary to apologize to their readers for making some alteration in the publication of a work that has been honored in a very eminent degree with the patronage of the public.

When the Society first engaged in this plan their object was to employ their leisure moments in a manner that might be useful to themselves and the community. They were likewise desirous to co-operate with other similar institutions in promoting that laudable spirit of observation and inquiry which has of late years so happily prevailed in this country.—In these views the Society have not been disappointed.—Their own industry has been stimulated to peruse with attention a variety of medical works with which it is probable they would otherwise never have been acquainted; and they flatter themselves that those among their readers who want opportunity to procure, or leisure to read many new books, especially foreign ones, have received useful information from their labours. The number of respectable and ingenious practitioners, who have honoured the Society with their correspondence, also affords them the most  
pleasing



pleasing satisfaction, as they see their Journal every day deriving additional importance from the interesting facts and remarks that are inserted under the head of *Essays and Observations*. These would be sufficient inducements to them to proceed as they began; but a year's experience has convinced them that their periods of publication are too frequent. The gentleman who contributes the most largely to the work, and who acts as Editor, finds the trouble of a monthly publication incompatible with his other avocations, so that what was originally proposed as a means of filling up a few vacant hours, has been found to require more time than he can conveniently set apart for it.

In future the Society mean to adopt a mode of publication by which this inconvenience will be avoided. The same general plan will be pursued as before in the distribution of their materials, but instead of once a month, a number of their Journal will appear only once a quarter. Each number will consist of seven sheets, so as to make one volume at the end of the year. This arrangement, it is hoped, will meet with the approbation of their readers.

London,  
Dec. 29, 1781.

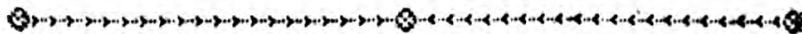
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THE  
LONDON MEDICAL JOURNAL,

For JULY 1781.



SECTION I.

BOOKS.



- I. *Experiments and observations relating to various branches of natural philosophy, with a continuation of those on air. The second volume. By Joseph Priestley, LL. D. F. R. S. honorary member of the Academy of Sciences at Petersburg, and of the Royal Academy of Medicine at Paris. 8vo. Johnson, London, 1781, 408 pages, 6s.*

**I**N the first section of this volume Dr. Priestley has prosecuted the capital discovery which he formerly published of the purification of air by vegetables when exposed to the influence of the sun's light. Mr. Scheele in his treatise on Air and Fire had endeavoured to shew that air is *injured* by vegetation, and that the empyreal or dephlogisticated portion of it is converted

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A

thereby

thereby into aërial acid. This important subject is now cleared up by our illustrious author's new experiments.

“ In my last publication (says he) I observed  
 “ that the *willow plant* grew very well both in  
 “ inflammable, and in common air, and that it  
 “ absorbed a considerable proportion of both  
 “ the kinds, as well as of nitrous air. In this  
 “ there could not possibly be any mistake, unless  
 “ we suppose the water to have absorbed the air,  
 “ which it has never been known to do in any  
 “ similar circumstance. However when I re-  
 “ sumed the experiments on the growth of this  
 “ plant in the course of the last summer, I had  
 “ no instance of the absorption of common air;  
 “ but I had repeated, and very extraordinary  
 “ ones of the absorption of inflammable air by  
 “ it; and the plant flourished so remarkably in  
 “ it that it may be said to feed upon it with great  
 “ avidity. This process terminates in the change  
 “ of what remains of the inflammable air into  
 “ a new species of air as good as common air,  
 “ or even better: so that it must be the inflam-  
 “ mable principle in the air that the plant takes,  
 “ converting it, no doubt, into its proper nou-  
 “ rishment.

“ Some



“ Some other plants also, as *comfrey*, and *duck-weed*, I observed to thrive very well in inflammable air, and to produce a similar effect upon it, though *mint* does not thrive so well in this as in common air; and I have generally found that, in time, this plant is killed by it.

“ It may deserve to be mentioned that the willow plant grows best in marshy places which abound with inflammable air. The plants which I made use of grew in the bottom of a field, in and near a piece of water, into which, if I only thrust a stick a prodigious quantity of inflammable air rushed out, so that, without changing my place, I could at any time collect a large receiver full of it. And bubbles of air were very frequently rising spontaneously from the mud at the bottom.

“ It may therefore be a provision in nature that this noxious kind of air should be fitted to the nourishment of such plants as grow best in those places in which it abounds, as well as that plants in general should purify the common atmosphere.”

The author then proceeds to relate a variety of experiments which confirm the above doctrine, as well as the fact which he had formerly dis-

covered, that dephlogisticated air is universally hurtful to vegetables.

The second section commences with some observations on the nature of the *green matter* which adheres to the sides of vessels filled with water, when exposed to the sun's light; and which the author had discoursed of in a former volume, as the cause of the purification of the air contained in the water, when assisted by the influence of light. He is now satisfied by experiments that it is a *vegetable* matter: and Mr. Bewly has observed the regular form of it by a microscope. The principal reason which made our author question its being a plant, was, its being produced, as he then thought, in close-stopt vials. But this having been done only with a common cork, the seeds of the plant, which must float insensibly in the air, might have insinuated themselves through some unperceived fracture in it; or they might have been contained in the water previous to its being put into the vial. Both Mr. Bewly and himself found, in the course of the last summer, that when *distilled* water was exposed to the sun in vials filled in part with quicksilver, and in part with distilled water, and inverted in basons of quicksilver, none of this green matter was ever produced; the seeds of the plant not  
having

having been able to penetrate through the mercury to reach the water incumbent upon it, though in several cases they insinuate themselves in a manner that is truly wonderful.

He next relates experiments which further demonstrate that the purification of air in these cases depends jointly on the sun's *light*, and on the *green (vegetable) matter* on the bottom and sides of the vessel; and that neither of these can effect it without the other.

Dr. Ingenhoufz is of opinion that the dephlogisticated air is *generated* or *produced* by the plant and the light. But Dr. Priestley proves, by a variety of experiments, that these do no more than *purify the air already contained in the water and in the atmosphere*. He concludes this section with observing, that "air combined with water is  
 " liable to be phlogisticated by respiration, and  
 " to be dephlogisticated by vegetation, as much  
 " as air in an elastic state out of water. For fishes  
 " foul the air contained in the water in which they  
 " are confined, and water plants now appear  
 " to purify it. This is, no doubt, one of the  
 " great uses of weeds, and other aquatic plants,  
 " with which fresh water lakes, and even seas  
 " abound, as well as their serving for food to a  
 " great number of fishes."—He further ob-  
 serves,



serves, " that water issuing from the earth contains air of an impure kind; that in its passage the grass extracts from it its phlogiston, so that it then becomes replete with dephlogisticated air, and unfit for further nutriment to vegetables."

In the third section the author relates some further observations on the *green matter*, which he now considers as a plant. The seeds of it float invisibly in the air, insinuate themselves through the smallest apertures, yield plants in all seasons of the year, wherever they meet with water; and are capable of producing air in the space of a few days. The richest pabulum for it are the putrescent parts of vegetable and animal substances. If however the quantity of putrefactive matter in the water be too great it will phlogisticate the air as fast as the plants produce it.

Rain water, and distilled water, yield the green matter, and consequently produce air, later than pump water. The latter containing more air to operate upon, and in a less pure state. Water impregnated with *fixed air* did not begin to yield the green matter, and pure air, till after the fixed air might be supposed to have made its escape.

The

The fourth and fifth sections treat of the production of the green matter and pure air, by means of various vegetable and animal substances in water. The most remarkable circumstance attending these experiments was that some substances, concerning which the author could have had no such expectation *a priori*, instead of admitting the growth of this plant when they began to putrefy and dissolve (which was the case with most vegetable and animal substances) yielded from themselves a very great quantity of inflammable air; and it made no difference whether they were placed in the sun or in the shade. Whereas other substances, which, if they had been confined by quicksilver, would have yielded, by putrefaction, inflammable air also, together with a portion of fixed air, only supplied that proper pabulum for this green matter, and the whole produce was pure dephlogisticated air; the phlogiston, which in other circumstances would have been converted into inflammable air, now going to the nourishment of this plant, which by the influence of the light yields such pure air. The author then relates a variety of experiments from which these observations were deduced; and concludes the subject with the following judicious reflections:

“ It

“ It is impossible not to observe from these experiments the admirable provision there is in nature to prevent or lessen the fatal effects of putrefaction, especially in hot countries, where the rays of the sun are most direct, and the heat most intense. For whereas animal and vegetable substances by simply putrefying, would necessarily taint great masses of air, and render it wholly unfit for respiration, the same substances putrefying in water supply a most abundant pabulum for this wonderful vegetable substance, the seeds of which appear to be in all places dispersed invisibly through the atmosphere, and capable, at all seasons of the year, of taking root, and immediately propagating themselves to the greatest extent. By this means, instead of the air being corrupted, a vast addition of the purest air is continually thrown into it.

By this means also, stagnating waters are rendered much less offensive and unwholesome than they would otherwise be. That froth which also we see on the surface of such waters, and which is apt to create disgust, generally consists of the purest dephlogisticated air, supplied by aquatic plants, which always grow in the greatest abundance, and flourish most in water that abounds with putrid matter. When the sun shines, these  
plants



plants may also be seen to emit great quantities of pure air.

Even when animal and vegetable substances putrefy in *air*, as they have some moisture in them, various other plants in the form of *mold*, &c. find a proper nutriment in them; and by converting a considerable part of the phlogistic effluvium into their own nutriment, arrest it in its progress to corrupt the surrounding atmosphere. So wonderfully is every part of the system of nature formed, that good never fails to arise out of all the evils to which, in consequence of general laws most beneficial to the whole, it is necessarily subject. It is hardly possible for a person of a speculative turn not to perceive, and admire, this most wonderful and excellent provision."

[ *To be continued.* ]

II. *Vermischte-chirurgische Schriften, &c.* i.e. *Miscellaneous surgical Essays, published by John Leberecht Schmucker, First Surgeon General to the army, and Director of all the military hospitals in Prussia.* Vol. II. 8vo. Berlin. 302 pages, with a copper-plate.

OF the first volume of this collection we gave an ample account in a former part of our Journal. The essays contained in this second volume are as follows :

I. *On amaurosis*, by Mr. Schmucker.—The author sets out with observing, that in this disease the pupil of the eye gradually loses its splendor, and acquires a pale colour, so that a skilful practitioner is able, even at a distance, to judge of the presence of blindness. He remarks that, in general, patients labouring under an imperfect amaurosis, see worse in clear day-light than in obscure places. In many cases the disease comes on suddenly, and in such, it seems, he has commonly been more successful than where the complaint was slow in its progress. In cases of incipient amaurosis, he has sometimes observed that when both eyes were open, the patients saw objects double.

He observes that the curative indications in this disease will be as various as its causes. The most

most frequent of these he supposes to be an increased determination to the head from a suppression of the hæmorrhoids or catamenia, in either of which cases a return of the flux is to be promoted by applying leeches to the anus or labia pudendi. Mr. Schmucker recommends at the same time copious venæsection, the application of leeches to the throat and temples, and a perpetual blister to the neck.

In cases where the energy of the optic nerve seemed to be impaired, he has experienced excellent effects from nauseating doses of emetic tartar given twice a day for several weeks.

In two cases where the disease was accompanied by an obstruction of the frontal sinuses, and a preternatural dryness of the nostrils, he succeeded in the cure by means of snuff, which by promoting a discharge from the nose gradually removed the complaint.

The author observes that in fevers, small pox, measles, gout, &c. this disorder is often the effect of metastasis, and he gives an instance of a patient who, upon being troubled with a gouty pain in his heel, applied cold water to the part affected. The pain immediately ceased, but the next day he became blind. He likewise speaks of another patient who was affected in a similar

manner by repelling the rheumatism from his shoulder by cold applications. In this last case Mr. Schmucker succeeded in the cure by the following mode of treatment. He began by applying a blister between the shoulders, and prescribing an emetic, which was repeated the day following. In three days the patient began to recover his sight, and by means of the nauseating course just now mentioned, together with the use of millepedes infused in Rhenish wine, and of an embrocation to the temples, the most active ingredients of which are spir. lavend. c. & spir. sal. ammoniac. the cure was completed in a few weeks. A similar method, we are told, proved equally efficacious in a case of amaurosis brought on by the measles.

Mr. Schmucker remarks that the venereal amaurosis requires the use of mercury, but that in all other cases this remedy is hurtful. In several patients he has tried the flowers of arnica, and in others electricity, but without experiencing the least good effect from either of those remedies. It ought to be observed, however, that the new method of administering electricity lately adopted in this country was unknown to our author.

## II. *Remarks*

II. *Remarks on translations of milk from the breasts, by the same.*—Two cases of abscess are here related which the author, perhaps without sufficient reason, ascribes to a translation of milk from the breasts.

III. *A case of hernia, by the same.*—The most remarkable circumstance in this case, previous to the operation, was a hard lump which formed a part of the hernia, and could not be reduced. On making an incision into the hernial sac it was found to contain a considerable quantity of water, and the lump just now mentioned was a portion of the omentum adhering to the sac. The whole of this substance was successfully removed, but not without a second operation, as the patient's loss of strength did not allow it to be completely extirpated at once.

Mr. Schmucker observes that the spermatic chord and testicle were found lying before the hernial sac, so that they might have been easily wounded by a hasty or inexperienced operator.

IV. *Of a dangerous wound of the head, by the same.*—In this case the trepan was repeatedly applied on account of a wound on the left parietal bone. On the nineteenth day after the operation the face swelled, and the patient was seized with a locked jaw. These alarming symptoms, however,



ever, were removed by a diarrhoea which came on the 25th day, and continued for some time.

V. *Of the amputation of fingers and toes, by Mr. Block.*—Several cases are described in this paper. The first relates to the amputation of a fore-finger of immense bulk. It had been for a long time painful and ulcerated, and when taken off was found to weigh twelve ounces and a half. Externally it was of a cartilaginous consistence, but within it was merely gelatinous, affording no appearance of muscles or tendons. Three cases are spoken of, of fingers cut through by a broad sword, all of which our author contrived to cure by what in surgery is termed the first intention.

Mr. Block speaks of a woman who was repeatedly delivered of children with six fingers and toes, though neither she or her husband had more than five. In some of these instances the fingers or toes being imperfect, and without a bone, our author thought it right to amputate them.

VI. *Remarks on the use of belladonna, by Mr. Evers.*—The first case in which this medicine was given by the author was in a schirrous affection of the uterus. The patient, we are told, had been eight times pregnant, and was delivered each  
time

time of a dead child. In her ninth pregnancy Mr. Evers was consulted. She was delivered as before of a dead child, and the placenta, upon examination, was found to be attached to a kind of sac, the surface of which was rough like the head of a cauliflower. The patient was directed to take five grains of the powder of belladonna, and the same quantity of rhubarb every morning for four weeks, interposing the use of a purgative occasionally. The author informs us that soon after this, his patient became pregnant again, and was delivered of a live and healthy child.—He relates the case of another woman who, after having been delivered of two dead children, complained of dyspnoea, nausea, oppression at the stomach, and continual pain in the left hypochondrium: to this patient also he prescribed the belladonna in the same manner as in the other case, and she was afterwards delivered of a live child.

To these cases Mr. Evers has added two instances of herpes; one of these was apparently venereal, and was cured by the mercurius corrosivus sublimatus; the other seeming to be a local affection of the skin, was removed by blisters which were applied to different parts of the body in succession.

VII. Of

VII. *Of a stone in the rectum, by Mr. Schwind.*

—We have here an account of a woman who for a long time complained of pain in her abdomen, and was subject to frequent colics. At length a stone of the size of an hen's egg was accidentally discovered in the rectum by giving a glyster, and was extracted by means of a pair of forceps.

VIII. *Observations on the use of belladonna, by the same.*—In a case of a cancerous ulcer of the foot this remedy, we are told, was given without effect. At length two grains of the powder were administered at once. This soon occasioned the most alarming symptoms, but they speedily disappeared. The patient died after taking six drachms of the medicine.

IX. *An account of a wound of the thorax, by Mr. Ollenros.*—In this case part of the left lobe of the lungs, the pericardium, and even the apex of the heart were wounded by a sword. The symptoms that ensued were a sonorous respiration, intermitting pulse, and spasms of the thorax and extremities. Notwithstanding these alarming appearances a perfect cure was effected in about five weeks.

X. *Of the efficacy of lime water in internal ulcers, by the same.*—Two cases are related in which this remedy was used with success. In  
one

one of these the patient, who had a purulent expectoration, hectic fever, colliquative sweats, and œdematous swellings of the scrotum and feet, was cured by drinking about a pint and a half of lime water and milk every morning. In fourteen days the expectoration and fever were much lessened. Our author then prescribed the Peruvian bark along with the lime water, and in about four weeks after this the patient was perfectly recovered. In the other case, an ulceration of the urinary bladder, the same remedy proved equally efficacious. Mr. Ollenros observes that it commonly promotes the secretion by the kidneys, but gradually weakens the stomach, on which account its use ought to be occasionally suspended for two or three days, during which time strengthening remedies should be administered.

XI. *Of a wound of the head, by the same.*—In this case one of the parietal bones was injured, but the fracture, we are told, extended only to the diplœ. The patient was deprived of his senses by the blow, but recovered them by repeated blood-letting and glysters, and the use of cold applications to the wound; on the third day he complained of pain at the forepart of his head, and of a spasmodic affection of his eyes.

These symptoms however were soon removed, part of the parietal bone exfoliated, and the wound healed without difficulty.

XII. *On the effects of cold water in cases of incarcerated hernia,* by the same.—Two cases are related in which this application was tried with success. In the first of these snow was applied to the tumour, and renewed as fast as it melted. Recourse was had at the same time to the tobacco glyster, and in about sixteen hours the hernia was reduced. In the second case the patient was troubled with vomitings, singultus, and a burning pain in the abdomen. Cold water with sal ammoniacum, nitre and vinegar, were applied to the swelling, and the fumes of tobacco thrown up the intestines as in the former case. The hernia was reduced in about nine hours.—Mr. Ollenros adds a case of *prolapsus ani* of long standing, which, after having resisted a variety of remedies, was cured in about twenty-four hours by cold water applied to the part, and thrown up by way of glyster.

XIII. *Another case of a wound of the head,* by the same.—In this case the temporal bone was depressed by a fall. The patient became senseless, and his pulse was imperceptible, but upon laying bare the bone, and opening a branch of  
the



the temporal artery, his respiration returned. Cloths wet with cold water were applied to the wound, and renewed every half hour. The day following the patient was sensible. On the fifth day the depressed bone was elevated, and ten ounces of coagulated blood discharged. On a more close examination it was discovered that the *arteria meningea media* was wounded. On the twelfth day the cold applications were discontinued; but were repeated again on the fifteenth, on account of an erysipelatous eruption on the face, attended with fever, and a deep seated pain of the head. These alarming symptoms, however, soon went off, and the patient gradually recovered.

XIV. *A case of deafness and blindness produced by metastasis*, by Mr. Püschel.—In this patient bleeding, blisters, and other remedies were tried without effect. At length the author had recourse to the method recommended by Mr. Schmucker in his remarks on amaurosis. Half a grain of emetic tartar was given four times a day, with ten grains of gum ammoniac. The dose of this medicine was gradually increased till it excited vomiting. In about twelve days the patient began to perceive light, and in a fortnight after this could distinguish objects. At

length both his sight and hearing were re-established.—In another case of the same kind a similar mode of treatment was adopted, and with equal success.

[ *To be continued.* ]

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III. *Comparatio inter sectionem Cæsaream et dissectionem cartilaginis et ligamentorum pubis in partu, ob pelvis angustiam, impossibili, succipiendos, Auctore C. C. Siebold, M. D. Anat. Chirurg. et artis obstetriciæ Prof. pub. ord. 4to. Wirteburgi, 1779, p. 72.*

THE author begins this candid and judicious performance, with a history of the Cæsarean operation, from the time of Roussel, one of the earliest writers on the subject, to the present day; after which he gives a short account of a case in which he himself had occasion to perform it. The patient, we are told, was ricketty and deformed. Dr. Siebold had assisted her in a former pregnancy, when the head of the child was opened, and the delivery accomplished with great difficulty. In this second labour, the state of the patient, and the apparent impossibility of her being relieved by any other method, induced him to perform the Cæsarean operation.

He

He began by making an incision through the integuments on the right side of the abdomen, this being more distended than the left. Unfortunately, in cutting into the uterus he wounded the placenta, which occasioned a profuse hæmorrhage. The child was extracted alive by the feet, and the uterus immediately contracted; after which the hæmorrhage lessened, and the placenta being detached, was extracted without difficulty. The omentum protruded through the upper part of the wound of the integuments, but was easily reduced, after which the lips of the wound were kept together by slips of sticking plaster.

The night succeeding the operation the patient was attacked with a violent vomiting, by which the lips of the wound were burst open, the omentum and small intestines pressed through it, and the hæmorrhage excited afresh. The day following the patient had symptoms of fever, complained of pains in her belly, and had frequent inclination to vomit. On the fourth day a dark brown ichor began to issue from the wound; on the fifth the vomiting ceased; and on the eighth the patient died.

Upon dissection, the intestines, omentum, and mesentery were found in several places adhering together in an inflamed and gangrenous state; and

and in the neighbourhood of the *intestinum cæcum* and bladder was a considerable quantity of black corrupted blood, partly in a coagulated, partly in a dissolved state.

The child, saved by the operation, was afflicted three weeks after its birth with ulcerations over its whole body, and soon died. The nurse who suckled it found her nipples and breasts affected in a similar manner. These appearances our author attributes to the lues venerea with which both the mother and child were probably infected.

Dr. Siebold next proceeds to the history of the new operation for dividing the symphysis pubis in cases of difficult parturition, the invention of which is due to M. Sigault of Paris. This operation has now been successfully performed by several practitioners in different parts of Europe, and amongst others by our author, from whose account of it we shall extract the following particulars :

When he had separated the ossa pubis with a saw, they receded from each other about three lines, or in other words, three tenths of an inch, but in order to increase the separation to sixteen lines, the distance that was required, so much violence was obliged to be employed, that a total laceration of the bladder and vagina was dreaded,  
and

and the turning of the child proved so tedious and difficult, that our author's strength being exhausted, an assistant was obliged to complete it. If the child had been alive, which was not the case, he thinks it would probably have died during the operation.

After her delivery the patient had an incontinence of urine, but the lochia flowed as usual. On the fifth day she complained of a violent pain in the region of the sacrum, which continued two days, and then went off. On the 10th the urine began to flow through the wound. On the 11th the patient was able to walk about her chamber without difficulty, although the ossa pubis were certainly not concreted, and sloughs were to be perceived in the wound, from the appearance of which Dr. Siebold supposes that a mortification had begun to take place about the neck of the bladder. The day following, upon examination, the bones of the pubis were found to be unequal and carious, and a crackling noise could be distinctly heard whenever she walked.

On the 32d day a piece of bone exfoliated, and the same thing happened several times afterwards during the course of the cure. In about seven days after this the patient began to void her urine through the natural channel, but some of it still  
continued



continued to pass now and then through the wound. On the 39th day after the operation she was able to walk up and down stairs without difficulty, although the bones of the pubis were not perfectly united till the 52d day, when she went about her usual business, having no other complaint than a small fistulous opening which was left to nature.

In July 1779, a year after the operation, our author saw her again. The fistula was then healed, after several exfoliations had taken place, and she was in perfect health. By introducing his finger into the vagina he was able plainly to distinguish the callus between the two bones of the pubis.

After relating this case, Dr. Siebold proceeds to the comparative inquiry mentioned in the title of his work, and begins with considering the difficulties that attend the Cæsarean operation: of these, he observes, the principal are the idea of horror that is naturally annexed to it; the uncertainty in some cases whether the child is alive or dead; the danger of wounding the placenta, by the incision into the uterus, and the dreadful hæmorrhage that ensues from thence; the protrusion of the intestines and omentum through the wound; the adhesion of the intestines to the wound

wound of the uterus, in consequence of inflammation, as M. Louis of Paris once saw happen; the want of proper means to bring the lips of the external wound together, slips of sticking plaster not being sufficient for this purpose, and the uniting them by means of a needle and thread never failing to increase the irritation, pain, and inflammation; the violent vomiting that usually follows the operation, with all its dangerous consequences; and lastly, the danger of a hernia after a complete cure. Our author next directs his views to *synchondrotomy*, or the section of the symphysis pubis, an operation, he observes, which is neither so dangerous nor so painful as the one just now spoken of; but he thinks that on this subject the principal question is, whether it is really so advantageous as its advocates have taught us to imagine. In discussing this point our author remarks, that by a moderate separation of the bones of the pubis from each other, the diameter of the pelvis is but very little augmented; and that if much violence is employed for this purpose, there will be great danger of lacerating the ligaments of the pelvis, and of course bringing on a fatal suppuration. He observes likewise, that much force cannot be employed without injuring the bladder, and its

surrounding cellular membrane by the extension. If the narrowness of the pelvis is owing to an exostosis the operation will, in his opinion, be fruitless, and he thinks it will be equally ineffectual if the ligamentous fibres at the sides of the os sacrum are ossified; instances both of the one and the other of these cases have occurred to him in his dissections. Upon the whole he is of opinion that this operation will be found useful only in cases where the head of the child is not of extraordinary bulk, and where the diameter of the pelvis is not less than three inches,

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IV. *Acta Academiæ Scientiarum Imperialis Petropolitane, pro anno 1777.* Pars prior. 4to. Petropoli, 1778, 484 pages, with 13 copper-plates.

THE nature of this work, and the views of the Academy in giving a new title to their publications, will best appear from the following advertisement which is prefixed to the volume before us:

“ The transactions of the Imperial Academy  
 “ of Sciences at St. Petersburg, of which  
 “ the first volume is now presented to the  
 “ public,

“ public, are in fact a continuation of their me-  
 “ moirs published hitherto under the title of  
 “ *Commentarii Academiae Scientiarum Petropoli-*  
 “ *tanae.*

“ From their institution in 1726 to their re-  
 “ newal in 1747, the Academy published four-  
 “ teen volumes. They then began a new col-  
 “ lection, under the title of *Novi Commentarii*:  
 “ and from 1747, to the celebration of their  
 “ jubilee in 1776, twenty more volumes made  
 “ their appearance, of which the xivth for 1769,  
 “ is divided into two parts.

“ The Academy perceiving that their com-  
 “ mentaries increased in number and bulk, so  
 “ that the purchase of them became more and  
 “ more burthensome, resolved, in 1777, to  
 “ change the title a third time, in order that this  
 “ new series of their Transactions might in some  
 “ measure form a separate work, so that the reader  
 “ might not be obliged to load himself with the  
 “ preceding commentaries. The Academy have  
 “ likewise thought proper to make considerable  
 “ alterations in the bulk, and even in the form  
 “ of the volumes, in order to lessen the price  
 “ and render them interesting to a greater num-  
 “ ber of persons.

“ In consequence of this resolution two vo-  
 “ lumes of their transactions will henceforward  
 “ appear every year, neither of which will ex-  
 “ ceed 400 pages. In this manner the year will  
 “ be divided into two equal portions, and each  
 “ volume will contain the transactions of six  
 “ months. The papers will be written in French  
 “ or Latin, according as the authors shall think  
 “ them more or less suited to persons not versed  
 “ in the learned languages; and to each volume  
 “ will be prefixed an historical part written in  
 “ French, this language being at present the  
 “ most generally known.

“ In this historical part an exact account will  
 “ be given of the most remarkable occurrences  
 “ relative to the Academy, such as the discourses  
 “ delivered at the public meetings, the questions  
 “ proposed, and the prizes distributed by the  
 “ Academy, the machines, inventions, and works  
 “ presented to them; and, lastly, an abstract of  
 “ such papers as may seem to be interesting or  
 “ useful to the public. In order to fill up the  
 “ void which, in consequence of this new ar-  
 “ rangement, will be made between the last vo-  
 “ lume of the *Novi Commentarii*, which is for  
 “ 1775, and this first volume of *Acta*, which  
 “ is for 1777, the Academy intend to print  
 “ an



“ an index to all the volumes of their Commen-  
 “ taries both old and new, and to give at the  
 “ same time their history from their foundation  
 “ to the celebration of their jubilee.”

Agreeably to this arrangement the present volume consists of two parts, separately paged. The first of these, entitled *Histoire de l'Academie*, and written in French, employs 100 pages; the remainder of the volume is allotted to the *Acta*.

In the historical part of the work, under the head of *Experimental Philosophy*, we meet with an account of a new electrical apparatus invented by Mr. Volta, and by him named the *Perpetual Electrophorus*. It consists of two plates of metal, the lowermost of which is covered with a layer of pitch; the other, which is somewhat smaller, is suspended by silken cords, so disposed by means of pulleys that the plate may be brought into contact with and rubbed upon the resinous mass.

The electrophorus described in the volume before us was executed at St. Petersburg by order of the Empress, after a model sent from Vienna, and is the largest hitherto constructed. It is nine feet in length, and four and a half in width. The resinous mass spread upon its under-plate contains 180 pounds of pitch, and eighty pounds

pounds of Spanish wax. In the *Acta*, Mr. Krafft gives a minute description of this apparatus, and a theory of its effects. This paper, which is intitled *Tentamen Theoriæ Electrophori*, is illustrated by an engraving.

Under the head of *Natural History* we have an account of the cranium of a rhinoceros with two horns, sent to Professor Camper from the Cape of Good Hope, and by him presented to the Academy. From the structure of this skull Professor Camper is of opinion that the African rhinoceros is of a different species from that of Asia.

We have next an account of some observations on mushrooms, communicated to the Academy by Father Cibot, one of their members, who is a missionary at Pekin. This writer treats very fully of the different opinions that are to be found in the Chinese books, concerning the nature and production of mosses and mushrooms. The most curious part of Father Cibot's paper is his account of the method practised by the Chinese for procuring a plentiful supply of mushrooms. It consists, we are told, in burying rotten pieces of the wood of particular trees in a good soil, and in a shady situation, turned towards the south. The wood is suffered to remain

main in this state all the winter, and is frequently watered, especially when the summer heats have begun to take place. Nitre is dissolved in the water employed for this purpose. This method, according to Father Cibot, never fails to procure mushrooms the very first year.

The Chinese are of opinion, that each tree, and even different parts of the same tree, produce a certain species of mushroom which is peculiar to them. The trees they are said chiefly to employ for this purpose, are the elm, the mulberry, the willow, the poplar, the pine, and the chestnut.

The learned missionary observes likewise, that the Chinese, who make the agarics of different trees a part of their food, have also a method of procuring an abundant supply of this kind of fungus. It consists in burying the lower half of the trunk of the species of tree they have chosen (the eldest are said to be the best for this purpose) in a shady place, exposed to the south. This trunk and the earth around it are to be frequently watered, especially during the great heats. That part of the trunk which is above the mould, especially when not deprived of its bark, is covered with agarics, which are to be soon gathered, otherwise they grow hard and woody.

woody. In a few days there is a fresh growth, and in this manner the trunk continues to produce a succession of crops for several months.

Father Cibot concludes his paper with an account of a simple method practised by the Chinese for ascertaining the salubrity of mushrooms. It consists in boiling with them a few pieces of *juncus* (*jonc*) the pith of which becomes of a blackish colour, if the mushrooms are of a noxious species.

The *Acta*, or second part of the volume, are divided into the three heads of *Mathematica*, *Physica*, and *Astronomica*; the papers contained in the second of these divisions, are as follows:

I. *Remarks on the natron of Russia*, by J. G. Georgi.—Hitherto native mineral alkali, which is, doubtless, the *natron* of the ancients, has been considered as a pretty rare production in the mineral kingdom. It has been occasionally found, however, in different parts of Europe, and particularly in Hungary; but no country produces it in such abundance, or so generally, as Siberia, and all the deserts of Asia.

Mr. Georgi, who has collected all the remarks made on this subject of late years by Dr. Pallas and others, is convinced by these, and by his own experiments, that this alkali is produced by the spontaneous destruction of the sea-salt and

Glauber's

Glauber's salt, with which the lakes and salt marshes in the southern provinces of Russia abound. He points out the great advantages which might be derived from this natural alkali, by substituting it for the vegetable alkali in a variety of processes, both in physic and the arts.

Towards the end of his paper he speaks of a method practised at Nertschinski for procuring crystals from this salt, which answer all the purposes of borax in metallurgical operations. This process our author supposes to have come originally from China, Thibet, or some other part of the East.

II. *A description of the ledum buxifolium*, by Peter Jonas Bergius.—Botanists have hitherto been acquainted with only a single species of ledum, that is very common in marshy situations in the northern parts of Europe and Asia. Professor Bergius here describes a new species found in barren sandy soils in New Jersey. This plant, of which an engraving is given in the work, differs from the common ledum in its leaves, which are oval, and similar to those of the *buxus*, on which account the author has given it the name of *ledum buxifolium*.

III. *A description of the Digitales Hybridæ*, by I. T. Koelreuter.—The author of this paper has for

some time been employed in a series of laborious and interesting experiments on the production of *hybridæ* or mules in the vegetable kingdom. The last volume of the *Novi Commentarii*, published by the Academy, contains the result of his trials with different species of *Lychnis*, *Cucubalus*, *Silene*, and other plants of the same family. From these experiments it appears that he was able to produce *hybridæ* from the *lychnis divica* and *cucubalus viscosus*, two plants of different genera.

In the present paper Mr. Koelreuter describes the result of his experiments with different species of *digitalis*. The *digitalis lutea* and *digitalis purpurea* fecundated each other reciprocally, and produced real *hybridæ*, or mules, partaking of each of those species. A similar production took place between the *digitalis lutea*, and the *digitalis Thapsi*. Our author likewise procured mules by fecundating the female organs of the *digitalis ferruginea* with the male dust of the *digitalis ambigua*; but his attempts to procure similar productions by a mixture of the *digitalis lutea* and *digitalis ambigua* were unsuccessful, a proof this that these two species, which by some botanists have been considered as simple varieties, are really different.



IV. *A description of the orifice of the great coronary vein, by C. F. Wolff.*—The great coronary vein, and the orifice by which it communicates with the right sinus of the heart, were known to Galen, but Eustachius seems to have been the first who noticed the valve with which this orifice is furnished. Since his time anatomical writers have constantly spoken of this valve as being of a semilunar shape, but the ingenious writer of the paper before us, who treats this subject very accurately and minutely, contends that its figure is oblong and narrow, and he considers it as a valve *sui generis*, different from any other to be met with in the human body. His descriptions are illustrated by an engraving.

V. *A description of the different species of phocæ, by J. Lepechin.*—Linnæus speaks only of one species of the *phoca* or seal, but others, as Pontopidan and Cranzius, describe four and even five kinds of this animal. Our author, who, in his voyage up the White Sea, had good opportunities for informing himself on this subject, reduces the number to two, and these are the *phoca oceanica*, and *phoca leporina*, of each of which he gives an accurate description illustrated by elegant engravings.

The volume closes with an epitome of a meteorological diary kept at St. Petersburg in 1776, by John Albert Euler.

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V. Fr. Chr. Stöllers, D. A. D. &c. *Beobachtungen und Erfahrungen aus der inneren und äusseren Heilkunst, mit physiologischen, anatomischen und praktischen Anmerkungen. i. e. Cases medical and chirurgica; with physiological, anatomical, and practical remarks. By Fr. Chr. Stöllers, M. D. 8vo. Gotha, 1780.*

WE have here accounts of eight cases that occurred to the author in his practice: The first relates to a disease which he names *Tabes chyluritica*, five *marcor cum hectica expenditure chyli*. It occurred in a man forty years of age, who was troubled with an excretion, of what our author supposes to have been chyle, from the urinary passages, accompanied with violent pain in the loins, frequent vomiting, costiveness, anxiety, and feverish heat. The urine discharged resembled thin milk, and after a few hours deposited a light white sediment, which, upon being shaken, was again perfectly miscible

miscible with the watery part. The author suspected a stone in the kidneys to be the cause of this complaint, but this opinion, he tells us, was ill founded. Soap, opium, bitters, mucilaginous remedies and clysters were tried repeatedly, but without affording any relief. At length, after a few purges of rhubarb, manna, and Epsom salt, he administered the Peruvian bark in substance, with an opiate at bed-time, by which means the patient recovered. In a note the author has collected what has been said by different practical writers concerning this disease.

The second paper contains a description of a very considerable prolapsus of the vagina, which included several large calculi. After these were taken out the complaint was easily cured.

Next follows an account of a peculiar stony excrescence from a dens molaris in a widow seventy years old, who had lost all her other teeth. This substance was separated by an accident without the tooth's being affected. Some time afterwards a similar mass made its appearance a second time, and the tooth becoming loose, they were extracted together. The first excrescence weighed two drachms and fifty grains; the last, fifty-four grains. Placed in the nitrous acid

acid it did not effervesce, but became very soft and assumed a brimstone-like colour.

The case succeeding this is of a woman who was repeatedly troubled with a præternatural retention and adhesion of the placenta. In her second labour, after an hour and a half's fruitless exertion on the part of the midwife to deliver the placenta, our author was requested to give his assistance. He found it adhering firmly on the right side near the orifice of the uterus, but was able to bring it away without much difficulty. When extracted he observed in it a strong tendinous excrescence. The same thing happened to the patient in three successive labours. At the close of the paper the author takes occasion to point out the dangerous consequences of leaving the separation of the placenta always to nature.

X In the fifth paper we have an account of a boy who, after violent exercise and drinking freely of beer and brandy, was attacked with symptoms of mania. He bit at every thing he came near, rolling his eyes in a wild manner and with great quickness, without uttering a syllable. Half a drachm of ipecacoanha forced into his stomach excited vomiting, and brought up a great deal of bread and some cucumber, after which the patient became quiet.

The

The sixth is a case of spurious aneurism of the left arteria œsophagea attended with peculiar symptoms. The nature of the disease was not discovered till after death.—After this follows a case of palsy of the tongue and right arm and leg, accompanied with convulsions. These symptoms followed a rheumatic fever and jaundice. A cure was effected by chalybeates and antispasmodics. In the eighth and last paper the author relates his success with the cicuta in a case of the tinea capitis that had resisted a variety of other remedies.

In an appendix to the work we meet with several miscellaneous practical remarks. The author observes, that in cases of inveterate rheumatism, and likewise in some venereal complaints, he has experienced excellent effects from an extract prepared from the fresh juice of the flowers and leaves of the napellus cœruleus or blue monkshood. In rheumatic cases, he gives from four to eight grains of it combined with the sedative salt of Homberg; and in venereal affections he mixes it with mercury.

In this appendix we also find a new method of preparing a tincture of cantharides, by first pouring water upon the flies, and after suffering them to digest a few hours, adding spirit of wine.

The

The author advises a previous distillation of the latter with balsam of Peru. Two drachms of the powder of cantharides to four ounces of brandy, or two ounces of spirit of wine, and the same quantity of water, are, we are told, the best proportions for this tincture either for internal or external use.

The author adds some observations on the use of the sublimate, and the *vinum antimoniale*. He prepares the latter in a manner very different from Huxham, by pouring Spanish wine upon any quantity of *vitrum antimoniale*, and filtering the mixture, after shaking it repeatedly, and suffering it to stand for some days. He extols the efficacy of this remedy in cases of small-pox, worms, catarrhal fever, and hooping cough.

## SECTION II.

### ESSAYS AND OBSERVATIONS.

X I. *Case of a boy poisoned by the root of hemlock-dropwort. By Thomas Houlston, M. D. Physician to the Liverpool Infirmary. Communicated by William Hawes, M. D. Physician in London. Read June 25, 1781.*

JUNE 9th 1781, the eldest son of the Rev. Mr. Kirkpatrick, a dissenting minister, about nine years old, rambling with several other children



children in the fields adjoining to the Leeds Canal near Liverpool, gathered, and gave to the others, a number of the roots of the hemlock-dropwort, which he believed were ground nuts, and of which he eat a much greater quantity than the rest. As he was returning home he grew giddy, and if he had not been prevented would have reeled into the canal. His inability to direct his motions increased gradually, and he was soon affected with stupor and convulsions. His mother, apprized of his situation, speedily came to him, and immediately, as she said, conceived the idea of his having eat something, the effects of which were similar to the poison administered to Sir Theodosius Boughton, till which time no such thing had been apprehended. Some water out of the canal was given him to drink, and he vomited a considerable quantity of the root he had swallowed; he however grew worse, raved, became heavy and convulsed, and was carried into a house adjoining. Mr. Shertcliffe, a surgeon in the neighbourhood, was sent for, who, with a view to evacuate what he had taken, gave him a solution of emetic tartar, and a purgative glyster.

He had swallowed at least twenty grains of tartar emetic, when I was sent for to him about

eight in the evening. I found him quite in the epileptic state, with the pupil vastly dilated, total insensibility, and all the appearance of a person in the last degree of intoxication. Convinced that unless the contents of the stomach could be expelled, no hope of his recovery remained, I gave, in solution, a scruple of white vitriol, most part of which was got down.

The convulsions, for some time past, had been strong and frequent; they seemed to begin with an effort, as it were to vomit (though after he got into the house he never vomited in the least). The head was drawn to the right side, and thrown back, general spasms succeeded, the eyes started prodigiously out from the sockets, and the tongue was thrust out, and forcibly bit. Some æther was sent for, and I poured a small quantity into the mouth, on the temples, &c. It was thought at times to relieve the fits which interrupted the circulation so as to render the pulse imperceptible; and to give often reason to suppose it was irrecoverably stopped. In this manner, however, the scene was closed at last, rather placidly, about ten o'clock at night, after he had suffered thus above four hours. The respiration, though slow, continued tolerably easy, almost to  
the

the last. The clyster operated a little before he died, and a very offensive stool followed.

Notwithstanding the boy had thrown up a considerable quantity of the root, yet I had no doubt but that such a part of what he had eaten remained in the stomach as would render every effort to save him ineffectual. The event unfortunately answered my expectations, and dissection confirmed the truth of the conjecture. Mr. Shertcliffe found in the stomach above an handful of the root, and noticed very sensibly the smell peculiar to it, the moment he cut into the cellular membrane, though it was not till twenty-four hours after death.

It was at first supposed that what the boys had gathered and eaten was the water-parsnip; and afterwards that it was the water-hemlock. Indeed Boerhaave, in his *Historia Plantarum*, under the article *Sium* (*water-parsnip*) commends the first species for its aperient, emollient, and detergent qualities; but adds, "that he never had dared to administer it, from the resemblance which it bears to the second species, the *cicuta aquatica*, of which those who have eaten, unless relieved by vomiting, died dreadfully and singularly convulsed." The latter (the *water-hemlock*) which is extremely poisonous, is frequently

confounded also with the *hemlock-dropwort*, the plant now spoken of, which is equally dangerous, and is termed by Lobel, Ray, and others, *Oenanthe cicutæ facie*. This, however it is certain, was the one pitched upon by the boy, who with difficulty recovered, as the root he and his companions had eat of.

Four of the other boys in company had partaken, though more sparingly, of the noxious repast, but on the first alarm, vomits having been exhibited, they all escaped. One, however, was with difficulty made to vomit, though he took largely both emetic tartar and ipecacanha, and he was affected with giddiness, drowsiness, and twitching so much that for some hours his recovery remained doubtful. He told me he had eaten one root and a half; and more than two hours had elapsed before he was sensibly affected by it.

This unfortunate accident, as well as the one which was lately the subject of a judicial discussion, proves how fatally certain is the effect of the poisons of this class. These vegetable poisons do not, like the mineral ones, become fatal by producing inflammation of the stomach, though at first they stimulate, and endeavour to promote their own discharge, yet their baneful action is  
solely

solely on the nervous system. Like to *opium* or *spirits*, they bring on such a degree of insensibility, or, as some suppose, of spasm, as wholly to destroy or counteract *the power of the stomach to expel them*, whilst their continuance there must inevitably prove fatal; whereas many *mineral poisons* may be decomposed by any alkali; and even the danger from drinking *spirits*, may be greatly lessened, by conveying into the stomach (by means of a pipe passed beyond the glottis) large quantities of water to dilute them after the power of vomiting, as well as of swallowing, is lost. [See two papers which I drew up on this subject, and which are inserted in the Edinburgh Medical Commentaries, Vol. VI. p. 325, and in those by Dr. Duncan, Part 3. 1780.]

To render a poisonous vegetable in the stomach, which cannot be evacuated; inactive, is what we are yet unequal to.—To dilute it would probably be, at least, a vain attempt, if it did not (by the liquid acting as a *menstruum*) elicit and render more active the poisonous quality; and unfortunately, to evacuate it, after it has remained long enough to produce in a certain degree, its effect on the stomach, seems next to impossible. We should, however, when there is the least ground to suspect any thing of this kind, immediately

immediately endeavour, by an active emetic, to evacuate the stomach, whilst there yet remains a possibility of doing it. On the early exhibition of a vomit in such cases depends its operation, and on that only, perhaps, the security of the patient.

Liverpool, June 15, 1781.

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II. *An account of a remarkable operation on a broken arm.* By Mr. Edward Ford, Surgeon to the Westminster General Dispensary. Communicated by Samuel Foart Simmons, M. D. F. R. S. Read July 2, 1781.

THOMAS SMITH, a native of Ireland, aged thirty-five years, being at Milford Haven, in October 1775, on his way to Ireland, had the misfortune to break his arm. It was immediately bound up by a surgeon of that place, and the day following he sailed for Galway, and from thence walked to Limerick by short stages, applying, on the road, to a surgeon, who examined his arm. At Limerick he put himself under the care of an eminent practitioner, who continued the same or similar bandages. All this time it does not appear by his narrative that any



any remarkable circumstances occurred. Nevertheless at the end of six weeks the fractured ends of the bone were not united. He was then advised to have cold water pumped upon his arm.—This plan was pursued for some time.

He now returned to England, and applied to various gentlemen at different hospitals, who tried many topical applications, and even internal medicines, but without effect.

When I saw him, in September 1776, there was a transverse fracture of the radius, about two inches above its juncture with the wrist, the ends of the bone evidently rubbing against each other. There was no tension or swelling of his arm, although he was in the constant exercise of his trade, which was that of a shoemaker.

The inconveniences of which he principally complained were, that he could not perform any labour which required him to grasp his hand; that he was frequently afflicted with cramps in his wrist; and that his arm was quickly tired in the necessary labour of his business.

Being perfectly satisfied that a repetition of the former treatment would be unnecessary, I had at first proposed to make an incision down to the fracture, and saw off the ends of the bone, in the manner recommended by Mr. White, and  
performed

performed by him with success in the Infirmary at Manchester. But as the patient was not wholly deprived of the use of his limb, I thought the risk would be too great; and considered, that if nature in the early stage of the disease had been prevented from generating the callus, or the union had been obstructed by any foreign substance, the mischief might probably be remedied merely by cutting down to the fracture. By this means the cause which prevented the union might be removed, or the offic disposition excited by the inflammation which would necessarily result from this process. Accordingly, on the 22d of September, in the presence of Dr. William Hunter, Dr. Robert Bland, Mr. Vaux, surgeon, Mr. Combe, and several other gentlemen, I performed the following operation.

The patient was seated on a chair, and his arm supported on an inclined plane fixed to the back of that and another chair. The tourniquet being applied, I made a longitudinal incision about two inches in length, through the integuments on the outside of the arm, near the course of the supinator radii longus, and of the tendon of the extensor carpi radialis, both of which being exposed in the dissection, were carefully held aside, whilst I cut down to the fracture. The bone

was

was covered with its periosteum which I scraped off, by means of a common elastic spathula, for the space of half an inch above and below the fracture.

I did not find any membrane or other substance intervening between the fractured parts, but the ends of the bone were rough.

The operation being finished, the wound was filled up with lint, and covered with a pledgit, after which the arm was bound up with an eighteen-tail bandage, and laid upon a pillow in a bent position. The patient was immediately put to bed, and an anodyne administered. The next morning a slight symptomatic fever coming on, he was bled, and took an opening medicine. After that time he was free from any disagreeable symptom.

In dressing his wound for the first three weeks, I frequently found upon the lint small exfoliations of the bone, not larger than grains of sand, but the discharge never had that black hue, which usually attends a caries.

The bone was soon covered with granulations, but there was no callus formed till five weeks after the operation, at which period he began to have some strength in the limb. At the end of eight weeks I found no kind of crepitation in the

bone, and in three months he was entirely well. It is now more than four years since the operation was performed, and he continues to have the perfect use of his arm.

*Golden-Square,  
June 28, 1781.*

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### SECTION III.

#### MEDICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL NEWS.

THE Oeconomical Society at Berne in Switzerland have proposed the following subject for a prize of sixty ducats, “What are the  
“vapours produced by the fermentation of those  
“vegetables which are inflammable, and by  
“what circumstances are they produced and  
“rendered inflammable?” The dissertations are to be written in Latin, German, French, English, or Italian, and sent to M. de Haller de Roche, secretary to the society, on or before the 31st of December 1782.

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The library, chemical and philosophical instruments, fossils, &c. belonging to the late Dr. Lewis of Kingston, have lately been sold in London.

don. The library contained a great number of scarce books in chemistry and pharmacy, but the most valuable part of it was a collection of manuscripts relating chiefly to philosophical subjects, physic, chemistry, natural history, arts, and manufactures, and most of them written by a Mr. Chisholm, who for upwards of thirty years was employed by Dr. Lewis for that purpose, and who, besides being a good chemist, is well acquainted with the French, Swedish, and German languages. We shall here mention some of the most valuable lots in this collection with the prices they sold at.—I. Bergman's physical history of the earth. From the Swedish. 2 vol. 8vo. £.3 13 6.—II. Bergman's method of examining the contents of waters, extracted from his several papers in the Swedish acts, 7 s.—III. Select papers, and abridgments of papers, medical, physical, metallurgical, chemical, and in various branches of natural history, arts and manufactures, translated from the memoirs of the Royal Academies of Paris and Berlin, 2 vols. folio, 4 vols. 4to. 3 vols. 8vo. £.4 4.—IV. The art of brewing; five sections of which only are finished; and these are as follows, 1. History of fermentation: 2. Of malt: 3. Of water; purifying, hardening, &c.

4. Of measuring heat: 5. Of determining the strength of worts, £.1 11 6.—V. Hoffman's medical works abridged, with additions under each disease, from later writers, 2 vols. 8vo. £.3 10 6.—VI. Chemical lectures read to his present Majesty, when Prince of Wales, at Kew, 4to. Ditto to their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester at Kingston, 4to. £.1 17.—VII. Collections on iron from all the experimental writers that could be procured; from the information of the most experienced workmen, and from observations at the works; with a view to a general history of iron and its manufactures. 1 vol. fol. 2 books 4to. 4 books 8vo. Considerable parts of the said history digested; but wanting some further experiments and informations for completing them, 6 books 4to. £.21 10 6.—VIII. Collections on the history of tin, and the arts depending thereon, from the best experimental writers, German, Swedish, and French, with the process of making tin plates, by a manufacturer, 8vo. £.1 18.—IX. Synoptic tabular views of the properties of the different metallic bodies, fol. £.2 4.—X. Hellot's art of dying, from the French, with additions, 2 vols. 8vo. Extracts from Stahl's *Ars tinctoria fundamentalis*, 8vo. £.18 7 6.—XI. Translations of  
entire



entire papers, abridgments and abstracts of all the papers on chemical, medical, and physical subjects contained in the Swedish acts, or transactions of the Royal Academy at Stockholm, from 1739 to 1776 inclusive. Translated from the Swedish, with a table. 7 vols. 8vo. £.31 10 6. —XII. Pott's *Lithogeognosia*, 4to. Chemical essays, 4 vols. 8vo. and other Chemical works by the same author. Translated from the German, £.2 5. —The whole collection of manuscripts, consisting of 133 lots, sold for about 200 guineas.

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We have lately received from Stockholm a paper, in the Swedish language, written by the ingenious Mr. Scheele, and describing his method of preparing *mercurius dulcis, via humida*, and likewise a new green colour. His account of the first of these processes is as follows :

“ Half a pound of quicksilver, and the same quantity of pure aqua fortis, are to be put into a small vessel with a long neck, the mouth of which is to be covered with paper. The vessel is then to be placed in a warm sand bath, and after a few hours, when the acid affords no signs of its acting any longer on the quicksilver, the fire is to be increased to such a degree that the solution may  
nearly

nearly boil. This heat is to be continued for three or four hours, taking care to move the vessel from time to time, and at last the solution is to be suffered to boil gently for about a quarter of an hour. In the mean while we are to dissolve four ounces and a half of fine common salt in six or eight pints of water. This solution is to be poured boiling into a glass vessel, in which the abovementioned solution of quicksilver is to be mixed with it, gradually, and in a boiling state also, taking care to keep the mixture in constant motion. When the precipitate is settled, the clear liquor is to be drained from it, after which it is to be repeatedly washed with hot water till it ceases to impart any taste to the water. The precipitate obtained by this method is to be filtered, and afterwards dried by a gentle heat.

“ It might be supposed, that when the nitrous acid ceases to effervesce with the mercury, it is saturated with it; but this is far from being the case; the acid, when the heat is increased, being still able to dissolve a considerable quantity of it, with this difference, however, that the quicksilver at the beginning of the process is calcined by the acid, but afterwards is dissolved by it in a metallic form. In proof of this we may observe,

serve, that not only more elastic vapour arises, but also that by adding either fixed or volatile caustic alkali we obtain a black precipitate, whereas when the solution contains only calcined quicksilver, the precipitate becomes yellow by such an addition. If this black precipitate is gently distilled, it rises in the form of quicksilver, leaving a yellow powder, which is in fact that part of the mercury that in the beginning of the operation was calcined by the nitrous acid.

“ The boiling of the solution for about a quarter of an hour is necessary, in order to keep the *mercurius nitratus* in a dissolved state, it being much disposed to chrySTALLIZE. In general, some of the mercury remains undissolved, but it is always better to take too much than too little of it, because the more metallic substance the solution contains, the more *mercurius dulcis* will be obtained.

“ It is necessary to pour the mercurial solution into the solution of salt by a little at a time, and cautiously, so that no part of the undissolved quicksilver may pass along with it. Two ounces of common salt are sufficient to precipitate all the mercury, but then it may easily happen that some superfluous *mercurius corrosivus* attaches itself to this precipitate, which the water alone is incapable  
of

of separating completely. This is undoubtedly the reason why mercurius precipitatus albus is always corrosive. I have found that common salt possesses the same quality as sal ammoniac, viz. that of dissolving a great quantity of mercurius corrosivus. I therefore employ four ounces and a half of common salt in order to get the mercurius corrosivus entirely separated.

“ If we consider the manner in which mercurius dulcis is obtained in the dry way, by sublimation, we shall not find it difficult to give the rationale of this new process.

“ Mercurius corrosivus albus is a middle salt, consisting, as is well known, of marine acid combined with calx of mercury. This salt is capable of dissolving a good deal of quicksilver in a metallic form, but for this purpose the most minute particles of each must be reciprocally mixed. This happens, when by means of heat, they are both converted into vapour. The same thing occurs in the abovementioned process. The solution first spoken of contains the calx mercurii and quicksilver divided into the most minute particles. If to this solution we add marine acid, or (to save expence) common salt, the marine acid will unite with the calx of mercury, and the result of this union will be a true mercurius

curius corrosivus albus; and as the solution contains quicksilver in its metallic state, this will immediately attract as much of the mercurius corrosivus as is necessary to saturate it, and by this means a real mercurius dulcis will be produced, which, from its being insoluble, will be immediately precipitated.

“ The following facts are proofs that this precipitate is a good mercurius dulcis, 1st, It is entirely tasteless. 2dly, I have sublimed it and examined what ascended in the beginning, and which ought to have been corrosive, if the precipitate had contained any thing of that nature; it being well known that mercurius corrosivus ascends sooner than mercurius dulcis, whereas through the whole of the sublimation what arose was a pure mercurius dulcis, exactly like that which is obtained in the common manner. 3dly, I have mixed this precipitate with one fourth part of quicksilver and sublimed it, upon a supposition that if it contained too much mercurius corrosivus it would be able to unite with more quicksilver; but so far was this from being the case, that the quicksilver was not diminished in weight by the experiment. 4thly, It is known that caustic alkalis and lime water give mercurius dulcis a black colour. The same thing

happened with mine. The black colour is no other than quicksilver divided into very fine particles.

“ That the process I have been describing is more advantageous than that which is usually adopted, I cannot doubt; because, in the first place, this mercurius dulcis can be prepared with less difficulty, with less expence, and without employing corrosive sublimate. 2dly, As there can be no danger of its being in any degree corrosive, provided it be sufficiently edulcorated, it may always be given with safety. 3dly, The operator is not exposed to that noxious dust which in the old method arises during the trituration of the corrosive sublimate and quicksilver. 4thly, This is much finer than the common mercurius dulcis, it being impossible to make the latter equal to it in this respect, however long it may be trituated.”

To this account we may add that Dr. Elliot, having undertaken, at the request of the society, to repeat Mr. Scheele's process, finds that a pound of mercury, and the same quantity of aqua fortis, treated in the manner above described, yield thirteen ounces and a half of calomel. In our next number we shall insert Mr. Scheele's method of preparing a new green colour.

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From



From the report of the SMALL POX SOCIETY at CHESTER, dated March 27, 1781. It appears that at the beginning of May 1780, when the small pox prevailed in that place, the town was divided into six districts, each under the care of an inspector; during that month the distemper was in twenty-five families, and in five out of the six districts. In all these places, except one, the contagion was totally extinguished on the 17th of June. In this district the distemper was only checked, through the imperfect execution of the regulations, but not stopt, till the 9th of December, and till these irregularities were corrected. During this period the small pox appeared in two distant parts of the town, but the contagion was stopt in both places without infecting a second patient. Since that time it has been brought into Chester, twice from Liverpool, and once from Coventry. The rules of prevention, in two instances, have preserved from the contagion two persons, never infected, in the same house: and in another instance three persons, never infected, in the same family, with a patient in the natural small pox, during the whole disease. At the time of dating the report there was not a single patient with the natural small pox in Chester.—The annual expence of this in-

stitution amounts to about 100 guineas. The inspectors are authorized to give a reward to the person who first informs them that a fresh family is infected.

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The following new works are in the press; viz. 1. Observations on Disorders of the Nerves. By Alexander Thomson, M. D. 2. Elements of the Branches of Natural Philosophy connected with Physic. By John Elliot, M. D.

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#### P R O M O T I O N S.

Dr. Matthews to be physician to St. George's Hospital in London, in the room of Dr. Gisborne, who has resigned.—Mr. Ingle to be surgeon to the Infirmary at Leicester.—*June* 26. John Sibthorpe, M. B. of Lincoln College, Oxford, to be one of Dr. Radcliffe's travelling physicians.—*July* 3. Charles Davy, M. A. of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, to be M. B.—10. Mr. John Robertson to be surgeon to Dalrymple's corps in Jamaica, in the room of Mr. Richard Allen deceased.—Mr. — Wood to be surgeon to the 2d regiment of foot in the room of Mr. John Perryn.—Mr. James Kay to be surgeon to the 70th regiment

regiment of foot, in the room of Mr. Lighteizer.—Mr. Phillips to be surgeon to the 85th regiment of foot, in the room of Mr. John Rutherford.—Mr. Thomas Davy of the 57th, and Mr. Donald M'Intire of the 43d regiments of foot, to be surgeons to the general hospital in North America.

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## DEATHS.

*June* 12. At Finchley, in Middlesex, Sir Thomas Harris, Knight, one of the court of assistants of the Company of Apothecaries, in London.

*July* 9. At Long Melford, in Suffolk, Mr. Joseph Howlett, formerly an apothecary in London.

20. In South Audley-street, London, Mr. Wheler, apothecary.

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## SECTION IV.

### MONTHLY CATALOGUE.

1. **A** Short account of the most effectual means of preserving the Health of Seamen. 4to. New York, 1780. 20 pages.

This

This little tract, which is written by Dr. *Gilbert Blane*, physician to the fleet under Sir George Rodney, is compiled chiefly from the writings of Dr. Lind and Captain Cook. He has arranged his observations under the three general heads, of fevers, fluxes, and the scurvy. Speaking of the first of these Dr. Blane observes, that infectious fevers are not so frequent in the West Indies as in England, there being something in the tropical climate averse to the production or continuation of a disease of this kind: “ I have seen,” says he, “ so many instances of crowding and “ naftiness, in ships and hospitals, without contagion being produced, and which in Europe “ would have excited it or rendered it more malignant, that the fact is ascertained beyond a “ doubt. Farther, those ships which bring this “ infectious fever from Europe, in general get rid “ of it soon after coming to this climate, and nothing but the highest degree of neglect can revive “ it. This brought into my mind what is related “ of the plague at Smyrna and other places ; that “ it disappeared at the hottest part of the season ; “ and it is a disease never heard of in the Torrid “ Zone. It is very difficult to ascertain the cause “ of this, as every thing relating to infection is “ very obscure. We can conceive it to be owing “ to

“ to the greater degree of airiness which the heat  
 “ of the climate makes necessary, or the employ-  
 “ ment of less woollen clothes; there may be  
 “ something in the state of the body, particular-  
 “ ly of its surface, which disposes it less to pro-  
 “ duce or imbibe the poisonous effluvia, or more  
 “ probably the virulent matter is of such a de-  
 “ gree of volatility as to be readily dissipated in a  
 “ certain degree of heat.”

Dr. Blane professes to have written his book chiefly for the use of officers of the navy, who though in general willing to adopt useful regulations for preserving the health of their ships crew, have seldom opportunity or inclination to consult voluminous publications on physic. To these, and to the sea-faring people in general, the present performance will no doubt be extremely useful, as it comprizes, within a small compass, the most judicious remarks that have hitherto been made on the subject.

2. An Essay on Fire. To which is added an Appendix. By C. R. Hopson, M. D. octavo. Rivington. London, 1781. 144 pages.

The doctrine maintained by the author of this work is, that heat, as well as light, is a distinct elementary body, having properties different from those of all other bodies, as well as from those of light; that its particles enter more or  
 less

less into the composition of all bodies, and remain in a fixed or quiescent state, in consequence of their attraction to the particles of such bodies; that when extricated or set at liberty from those particles, with which they were before united, by the intervention of other bodies, to which such particles have a still stronger attraction, as in the case of friction, percussion, or comminution, they recover, what may be called, their original or native activity, and diffuse themselves throughout the bodies of which they were a part: that in these circumstances, and in consequence of such activity, they have the power or property of producing the sensation of heat, and likewise of communicating this power to those bodies, throughout which they are thus diffused.—That fire therefore is not a simple element, but is compounded of two distinct elementary bodies, *viz.* light and heat, in a state of the most intimate union or combination.

According to this opinion, phlogiston is neither pure light nor pure heat, but is compounded of both these substances, intimately combined with each other, and with the particles of those bodies in which it exists: in consequence of which last combination it loses its activity, and becomes fixed or quiescent in such bodies.

In



In the appendix the author has added his inaugural dissertation *De tribus in uno*, which was first printed at Leyden in 1767.

3. Observations on fevers: wherein the different species, nature, and method of treating those diseases are represented in new and interesting points of view. By *John Roberts*, surgeon, late of the royal navy, now of Grafton-street, Soho. 8vo. *Robinson*, London, 1781. 2 s. 6 d.

4. An Essay on Culinary Poisons. Containing cautions relative to the use of laurel leaves, hemlock, mushrooms, copper vessels, earthen jars, &c. with observations on the adulteration of bread and flour, and the nature and properties of water. 8vo. *Kearsley*, London, 1781. 45 pages. 1 s.

The superficial account here given of the lauro-cerasus is copied chiefly from Dr. Mead, on whose authority the compiler has probably been induced to speak of sal ammoniac as the antidote to this poison. In cases where the distilled water of this plant has been swallowed, its fatal effects have generally come on too suddenly to allow of any relief from medicine; but it would surely be a melancholy circumstance if any well-meaning person, relying on what is asserted in this pamphlet, should, in a case of this kind, in-

stead of endeavouring to empty the stomach instantly by a powerful emetic, content himself with giving the patient "from ten to forty drops of sal ammoniac in a glass of water;" and yet this is the only remedy spoken of!

What is said of small hemlock or fool's parsley is comprized in about a dozen lines, which include a short general description of the plant. The account of mushrooms contains a small part of an ingenious paper on *fungi*, inserted in the Gentleman's Magazine for 1755.—The cautions against the use of copper vessels are taken from Dr. Mead's Essay on Poisons, and M. Amy's Treatise upon cisterns; the remarks on the solution of salt of lead from a dissertation by Dr. Lind; as those on bread and flour are from a tract on the nature of bread by Dr. James Manning, published in 1757; and the observations on water, which occupy the last sixteen pages of the pamphlet, are copied from Dr. Rotheram's "Philosophical Inquiry."

5. Memoire sur les enfans trouvés; par les recteurs de l'hopital general de S. Jacques d'Aix, *i. e.* A memoir concerning foundlings, by the managers of the general hospital at Aix. 4to. 1780. 190 pages.

This

This paper, which appears to be written with the most humane views, is occasioned by the mortality that has prevailed of late in the foundling hospital at Aix, in Provence. It seems that of one hundred and fifteen children admitted in one year, one hundred and three died. The causes assigned for this fatality are, 1. The diseases that attack the children soon after their birth; 2. The infalubrity of the apartments, and improper regimen; 3. The want of proper nurses. The authors point out the means of remedying each of these inconveniences.

6. *Monitum ad observatores, societatis meteorologicæ Palatinæ, à serenissimo electore Carolo Theodoro recens institutæ.* 4to. Manheim, 1781. 12 pages.

This work contains an invitation to the lovers of meteorology in different parts of Europe to co-operate with the views of the newly-established society, and an offer on the part of the Elector Palatine to furnish them with the necessary apparatus.

7. *La Chimie Domestique; i. e. Domestic Chemistry.* 8vo. Laufanne, 1780. 19 pages.

8. *Essai sur l'électricité, naturelle & artificielle, par M. le Comte de la Cépède, des académies de Dijon, Stockholm, Hesse Hombourg, Munich,*

nich, &c. *i. e.* An Essay on natural and artificial electricity, by Count de la Ceppe, of the academies of Dijon, Stockholm, Hesse Hombourg, Munich, &c. 2 vols. 8vo. Paris, 1781.

9. Ratio occurrendi morbis à mineralium abusu produci solitis, auctore *Theodorico Petro Caels*, Collegii Medicorum Bruxellensium socio, 12mo. Amstelodami, 1781. p. 117.

10. Analyse des eaux minerales de S. Vincent, et de Courmayeur, dans la duché d'Aoste, avec une appendice sur les eaux de la Saxe, de Pré S. Didier, et de Fontane More; par *M. Giovanetti*, Docteur Collegié, Doyen et Vice-prieur de la Faculté de medecine de Turin, Medecin pensionnaire de S. M. Contenant plusieurs procédés chymiques nouveaux, utiles pour l'analyse des eaux minerales en general, et pour celle des fels. *i. e.* Analysis of the mineral waters of Saint Vincent and Courmayeur, in the duchy of Aoste, with an appendix on the waters of Saxe, Pré Saint Didier, and Fontane-More; by *M. Giovanetti*, Collegiate Doctor, Dean and Vice Prior of the Faculty of Physic at Turin, and Physician pensioned by his Majesty; containing several new chemical processes, useful in the analysis of mineral waters in general, and in that of salts. 8vo. Turin, 1779.

11. Histoire

II. Histoire naturelle, chymique, et medicinale des corps des trois regnes de la nature, ou abrégé des œuvres chymiques de M. Gaspard Neumann, par feu *M. Roux*, Docteur de la Faculté de Medecine de Paris, Professeur de chemie, &c. Premiere partie du regne mineral. *i. e.* The natural, chemical, and medicinal history of the bodies belonging to the three kingdoms of nature, or an abridgment of the chemical works of Gaspard Neumann, by the late *M. Roux*, Doctor of the Faculty of Physic at Paris, Professor of Chemistry, &c. 4to. Paris, 1781. 338 pages.

This posthumous publication forms only a small part of a plan which the ingenious editor projected several years before his death. Neumann's chemical writings, with the annotations of Zimmermann and Lewis, were the groundwork upon which M. Roux intended to form a complete system of chemistry. The lovers of that art will regret that he lived to finish only this fragment, which contains the first, and a part of the second of the six classes into which he meant to divide the mineral kingdom. The first of these classes includes stones and earths; the second, metallic substances; in the third, he proposed to arrange sulphur; in the fourth, mineral salts; in the fifth, crystals, and in the sixth and last, the different kinds of water.

In

In his introduction to the work, M. Roux divides chemistry into natural and experimental. The former of these includes the phenomena produced by the action of bodies upon each other, by virtue of their nature and particular composition. Under this head he considers meteors, the production of fossils, earthquakes, vegetation, &c. The second branch, or experimental chemistry, includes all the phenomena which present themselves to the chemist when he himself applies these substances to each other. This part of his subject M. Roux distinguishes into, 1. Philosophical chemistry; 2. Medicinal chemistry; 3. Zimotechnicks, or the art of making bread, and the different wines; 4. Cookery; 5. The art of perfumery; 6. Pyrotechnics, or the art of making fireworks; 7. Halotechnics, or the extraction of salts, and their spirits; 8. The art of making soap; 9. That of dying; 10. That of varnishing; 11. The different arts for the preparation of skins, hair, horns, &c. 12. Those of preparing grease and tallow, including the art of making glue; 13. The art of making paper; 14. That of making starch; 15. Metallurgy, which includes the docimastic art, and that of alloys; 16. Alchymy, or the art of improving and transmuting metals; 17. The



The art of making glass, and that of enamelling;  
 18. Pottery, in which are included the arts of making tiles, bricks, varnished pottery, porcelain, &c. 19. The art of preparing lime, mortar, &c.

After pointing out these distinctions M. Roux treats very fully of the nature and action of fire, the construction of furnaces, and of the vessels and instruments necessary in chemistry. He next describes the different modes of distillation, together with the precautions and apparatus requisite in each. In treating this part of his subject, he takes occasion to describe the different lutes that are in use, and to point out such as he thinks best. The introduction concludes with several remarks relative to the care and attention to be observed in chemical operations.

In the work itself M. Roux, in the first class of his arrangement, describes with great accuracy, the experiments made of late years by M. D'Arcet and others, on the diamond and other precious stones. He treats very minutely of quick lime, gypsum, the Bologna stone, and fusible spar. In describing the lapis lazuli, and the valuable colour with which it furnishes painters, he mentions the processes employed for extracting it. To his researches on the argil-  
 laceous

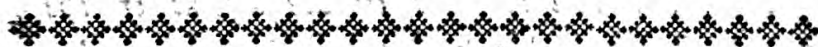
laceous earths he has added several methods of composing excellent crucibles. He speaks of the fusion of talk in the furnaces at Saint Gobin, and of its being attended with this singular circumstance, that the semi-vitrification produced by this fusion did not unite with the crucible. Of the perfect metals, which constitute M. Roux's second class, he completed only the articles of gold and silver, under each of which heads we meet with a variety of interesting observations.

12. Dictionnaire raisonné de Physique. Par *M. Briffon*, de l'Academie Royale des Sciences, maitre de Physique et d'Histoire naturelle des Enfans de France, Professeur Royal de Physique experimentale au College royal de Navarre, et Censeur Royal. *i. e.* A descriptive Dictionary of natural Philosophy, by *M. Briffon*, of the Royal Academy of Sciences, teacher of natural philosophy and natural history to the younger branches of the royal family, Professor of experimental philosophy in the Royal College of Navarre, and Censor Royal. 4to. Paris, 1781. Vol. I. 708 pages. Vol. II. 789 pages. With 90 copper plates.

This work includes a complete course of natural philosophy, and seems intitled to the same rank in this science that *M. Macquer's* is in chemistry. In a preliminary discourse the author points out the order in which the principal articles ought to be read by a student.

77 83 111  
34 84 112  
106 132  
109 110  
THE  
LONDON MEDICAL JOURNAL,

For AUGUST 1781.



SECTION I.

BOOKS.



- I. *Commentationes Societatis Regiæ Scientiarum Gottingensis. Classis Physicæ Tomus I. ad A. 1778. 4to. Gottingæ, 1779. 139 pages, with six copper plates.*

THE works published every year by learned Societies in different parts of Europe are so numerous, and the subjects discussed in them so various, that the printing each class of papers separately in the manner adopted by the Royal Society at Gottingen, would be extremely agreeable and convenient to men of science. In the class of *Physica* the society include medical as well as  
VOL. II. N<sup>o</sup> II. K phi-

philosophical papers. The articles of the present collection are as follows:

I. *An account of a præternatural and uncommon adhesion of the rectum to the urinary bladder, and of a consequent defect of anus.* By Henry Augustus Wrisberg, M. D. professor of anatomy.

II. *Anatomical remarks on the descent of the testicles from the abdomen into the scrotum, with a view to illustrate the doctrine of the hernia congenita in either sex.* By the same.

These two papers having been published separately by the author have been already noticed in our Journal. [See vol. i. p. 375, & seq.]

III. *Remarks on several newly discovered plants.* By John Andrew Murray, M. D. professor of botany in the university of Gottingen.

The author begins with deploring the irreparable loss botany has sustained by the deaths of Bernard de Jussieu, Haller, and Linnæus, on each of whose memories he bestows a grateful eulogium. Speaking of the latter, he observes, that the world was deprived of him at a time when our knowledge of plants was beginning to be wonderfully enlarged by the travels of ingenious botanists, as Aublet, Sonnerat, Pallas, Solander, Forster, Sparrman, and Thunberg, into

into the remotest parts of the globe. He laments, however, that since the death of Linnæus the treasures collected by those gentlemen have remained ‘ *projecta, dispersa, et quasi derelicta* ;’ and he expresses his fears, that in describing new plants a confusion will be introduced into the science of botany, which may last for many years, till a second Linnæus arises to dispel it. In order to prevent this evil from taking place, he intreats the lovers of botany to avail themselves of every opportunity of procuring accurate descriptions of such plants as are new, or hitherto not generally known. With this view the author has selected several plants cultivated in the botanic garden at Gottingen, none of which, to his knowledge, have as yet been perfectly described. The first three are species of *Salvia*. Dr. Murray observes, that many species of this genus resemble each other so nearly, that it is no easy task to ascertain the characteristic difference of each. Zinn, who directed his attention to this genus with his usual industry, described twenty-six species; but since his time the number has so much increased, that in the last edition of Linnæus’s *Systema Vegetabilium* 39 species are enumerated, and ten more might now be added. Those described

by our author are as follows: 1. *SALVIA COCCINEA*, *foliis cordato-oblongis obtuse serratis, calycibus tripartitis, labio corollae inferiori amplissimo.*

The seeds of this plant, which is a native of Æthiopia, were sent to him by Mr. Aiton of Kew, and it flowered in August. It differs from every other species of *Salvia* in the scarlet colour of its flowers, on which account M. de Jussieu named it *Coccinea*.

2. *SALVIA NILOTICA*, *foliis sinuatis angulatis crenato-dentatis, calycum dentibus spinosis, angulis et margine faucis ciliatis.* This plant, which was so named by

M. de Jussieu, the botanist who first cultivated it, bears a small blue flower.

3. *SALVIA NUBIA*, *foliis lanceolato-ovatis duplicato-crenatis, tubo corollae incurvato.* Dr. Murray procured the seeds of this plant from different friends, who all agreed that in the botanic garden at Paris it went by the name of *Nubia*, except one, who spoke of it as an Abyssinian plant. The other

plants described by our author are, 5. *SIDERITIS ELEGANS*, *herbacea ebracteata villosa, caule diffuso, calycum laciniis subæqualibus, spinulosis.* Of this plant Dr. Murray observes, that it was sent to him as a species of *marrubium*, but proved to be a true *sideritis*, to which, on account of the beautiful colour of its flowers, he has given

the



the name of *Elegans*. He can find no traces of it in any botanic writer, except Fabricius, and even this author confounds it with the *Sideritis Romana* of Linnæus. 6. *PLANTAGO EXIGUA*, *caule ramoso herbaceo, foliis subulatis integerrimis, capitulis foliosis*. This plant, which is a native of the East Indies, appears at first view to be a variety of the *Plantago Indica* Linn. from which however our author finds it to differ very materially in the form of its leaves. 7. *SOPHORA ALBA* Linn. Dr. Murray observes, that the descriptions hitherto given of this plant by Linnæus and others are defective; and that the engraving of it given by Martyn in his *Stirp. rarior.* tab. 44. and which seems to have been made from a decayed specimen, has so far imposed on Linnæus as to lead him into a mistake in his *Mant. Plant.* 2. p. 440.—For our author's accurate descriptions (illustrated by engravings) of this and the other plants already mentioned, we must refer our readers to the work itself.

IV. *Remarks on the Fistula Lachrymalis.* By Augustus Gottlieb Richter, M. D. *professor of surgery in the university of Gottingen.*

Almost all the modern writers on this disease agree in ascribing it to an obstruction of

of the nasal duct; but the author of these remarks contends that this cause, though it may, does in fact but rarely exist. He observes, for instance, that a fracture or caries of the bones surrounding the lachrymal sac, or an ulceration of the sac itself, which are perhaps the only causes that can lay the foundation of such an obstruction, will seldom be found to precede the disease in question; and that inspissated mucus, acrimony of the tears, and other similar causes which have been supposed to occasion it, are totally inadequate to such an effect. Upon this principle he reprobates the use of all the instruments which have been invented of late years in different countries, particularly in France, for the purpose of removing the supposed obstruction. They are most of them, he thinks, calculated rather for shew than real utility; and what is more, there are but very few, even of the most dexterous surgeons, who are able to use them.

“ Every candid practitioner, says our author,  
 “ who has seen this disease, must confess, and  
 “ I myself, who have frequently had occasion  
 “ to see it, acknowledge, that we are seldom  
 “ able to cure it perfectly. It frequently re-  
 “ turns after the *ductus ad nares* has been care-  
 “ fully

“ fully and completely opened; and many pa-  
 “ tients are as much troubled with a defluxion of  
 “ tears after, as they were before the operation,  
 “ which very often affords them but little or  
 “ no sensible relief. I have even seen patients  
 “ in whom after the most dexterous operation  
 “ the lachrymal sac not only continued tumid,  
 “ but was attacked with a violent inflamma-  
 “ tion.” Some practitioners, he observes, will  
 no doubt be disposed to attribute this return  
 of the complaint to a return of the original  
 cause, the obstruction; and in order to prevent  
 this it is usual, after making an incision into the  
 sac, to keep open the duct by means of catgut,  
 a probe, seton, &c. till all danger of a return  
 of the disease seems to be past. “ But, how-  
 “ ever long, continues our author, this method  
 “ is adopted, the disease generally returns, and  
 “ returns, in my opinion, because the cause of  
 “ it is not removeable by this operation. I  
 “ have repeatedly continued the use of the  
 “ bougie eight or ten weeks, and in two cases  
 “ half a year, notwithstanding which the dis-  
 “ ease constantly returned as soon as the wound  
 “ in the sac was healed. In two patients I was  
 “ induced, by a return of the symptoms, to  
 “ repeat the operation a second time, and in  
 “ both

“ both instances I was convinced there was no  
 “ obstruction, as a probe passed readily into the  
 “ nostril.”

As a further proof that in general the disease depends not on any obstruction of the duct, the author observes, that it seldom continues long in the same state; sometimes disappearing almost entirely, and afterwards growing worse again. He has frequently noticed its almost total removal for several months; in some patients he has observed that it proved particularly troublesome in spring and autumn; and he has even seen persons whose health has evidently been influenced by the return or cessation of this complaint. As an addition to these arguments, he remarks, that even in the most confirmed state of the disease, it is no uncommon circumstance to force the contents of the tumid sac into the nostril merely by pressing it externally with the finger.

After having thus combated these commonly received notions concerning the nature and cure of this disease, Dr. Richter proceeds to deliver his own ideas on the subject. He begins by distinguishing three species of fistula lachrymalis, the cause and cure of each of which is materially different. The first and least frequent of these  
 is

is occasioned by an obstruction of the lachrymal sac; the second, and most common of the three, is owing to a translocation of morbid matter to the channel through which the tears are to pass; the third and last arises from a weakness of the lachrymal sac. He treats pretty fully of the symptoms and treatment of each of these species.

He observes, that if the disease remains uniformly the same; if, by compression, no fluid is forced into the nostrils; if, in the early stage of it, the lachrymal sac is neither painful nor inflamed, and the fluid that regurgitates from it is a colourless mucus or water, we may reasonably ascribe the complaint to an obstruction of the duct, provided these symptoms have been preceded by any cause likely to produce such an effect. But he thinks it will seldom happen that the disease, arising from such a cause, will pass on to what he terms the second stage, in which the sac inflames, and the fluid contained in it assumes a puriform appearance. He allows, however, that this may sometimes happen through mismanagement or any accidental cause exciting inflammation.

In this species of the disease our author recommends an incision to be made into the lachrymal

sac, which is then to be lightly filled with lint and covered with a plaster. Four or five days after this operation, when there is no danger of hæmorrhage, a small, flexible, silver probe, similar to that invented by M. Mejean, is to be introduced at the wound and pushed through the duct into the nostrils. This part of the operation, we are told, generally requires a considerable degree of force, and is attended with acute pain and the discharge of a drop or two of blood from the nostrils. After withdrawing the probe a piece of small catgut is to be passed into the duct, and suffered to remain there four or five days, at the end of which time it is to be removed and one of a greater thickness introduced in its stead. In this manner we are directed to proceed for about a month, increasing the thickness of the catgut every five or six days, till it is equal in bulk to the natural size of the duct. The catgut is to be removed every morning, and the sac cleansed by injecting into it barley-water and honey, or any other emollient liquor. As that part of the catgut which remains in the nostril is apt to become hard, dry, and incrusted with mucus, the drawing it upwards through the wound would be painful to the patient; we are therefore advised to pull it downwards through the nostril;

and,



and, that this may be easily done, we are to take care when we introduce it that a sufficient portion of it projects from the duct within the nose.

At the end of about four weeks the emollient is to be exchanged for a drying injection of lime water or Goulard's vegeto-mineral water, and instead of the catgut a leaden probe is to be introduced into the duct, and the use of it continued for two months, or till there is no longer any appearance of pus, and till a fluid injected into the sac passes readily and copiously into the nostrils, or the patient's breath, when his mouth and nostrils are shut, forces its way with violence through the wound in the sac.

Dr. Richter observes, that several practitioners, particularly Mr. Warner, prefer the making an artificial vent for the tears, by perforating the os unguis, upon a supposition that by this means a return of the complaint is less likely to happen than by attempting to remove the obstruction of the duct. Our author, however, is clearly of opinion, that they are mistaken in this point, not only because the disorder does not return after the operation just now described, provided it was really occasioned by obstruction, but likewise because this perforation of the bone, instead of relieving the patient, is productive of considerable

L 2            inflammation,

inflammation, which sometimes closes the lachrymal ducts, and totally prevents the passage of the tears into the sac, which is the reason why a weeping eye is so often the effect of such an operation.

The second species of fistula lachrymalis, or that which our author ascribes to metastasis, he supposes to be owing to an acrid and morbid humour affecting chiefly the glands of the sac.

Thus the matter of the small pox, scrophula, gout, lues venerea, tinea capitis, &c. will frequently excite a disease of this kind. Our author speaks of that which succeeds the small pox as being the most difficult of cure of any. He has sometimes succeeded in the scrophulous fistula lachrymalis by means of issues, bark, calomel, and extract of hemlock. He observes that the arthritic fistula is apt to return, particularly in spring or autumn; but he has in several cases removed it by issues, and the use of aconitum, antimony, and the bark. When the disease is owing to a venereal taint it is to be cured by mercury. In two children he has seen it come on after the drying up of a tinea capitis, and disappear upon the return of the original complaint.

Dr. Richter finds it difficult to account satisfactorily for the manner in which a fistula lachry-

malis

malis originates from these causes, but having observed that the lachrymal duct is extremely irritable, so as to be capable of considerable contraction, he thinks it likely that in cases of this sort the disease is owing to spasm; and that upon this principle we may easily explain why it seldom remains long in the same state, but is sometimes better and at other times worse.

The third species of fistula lachrymalis, according to our author, is owing to a state of atony, which prevents the lachrymal sac from propelling the tears into the nostrils. He observes, however, that this is seldom a primary complaint, being generally produced by one or other of the two species already spoken of. The only remedies recommended in cases of this sort are strengthening applications, and gentle pressure, to prevent too great a distension of the sac.

V. *A Discourse on the History of Alum.* By John Beckmann.

We have here a very elaborate history of a salt with which, in the opinion of the learned author, the ancients were unacquainted, as the substances to which they gave the names of *συμπτηρας* and *alumen*, were only preparations of vitriol. The salt at present distinguished by the name

name of *alum* was for several centuries imported into Europe from the East, where it was first invented. It is difficult to ascertain the precise date of the discovery, but our author supposes it to have been made in the 12th century, about which time likewise the term *vitriol* first came into use; Albertus Magnus being the first writer who adopted it.

The author takes occasion to notice the diversity of opinions that has prevailed concerning the etymology of *Roch alum*; and, after examining each of them, adopts that of Leibnitz, who supposes, that the word *Rocca* is derived from a place of that name in Syria, from whence the art of preparing alum is said to have been first brought into Italy about the year 1458.

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II. *Observations on the Dysentery of the West Indies, with a new and successful manner of treating it.* By Benjamin Moseley, surgeon at Kingston in Jamaica. 4to. Kingston, 1780. 20 pages.

THE dysentery is a disease so destructive to soldiers in camps and garrisons, and so constant an attendant on all military operations

tions in hot climates, that it is of the utmost importance to investigate the disease, on every occasion, with the greatest attention. It is remarked, and not without reason, by the author of the present work, that the page of military history weeps less for the slain in battle, than for those who have fallen victims to the flux. He observes, that the ablest writers on the subject have done little more " than record the times " and places when and where it proved most " fatal; the appearance it put on; its devastation; variety of modes of treatment that had " no certain success; now and then a remarkable case, and the phenomena discovered on " dissecting the dead."

The great Sydenham, to whom the world is indebted for an inestimable work founded in nature, on a basis applicable to every climate, discovered the dysentery to be a fever of the season, or *sui generis* ' turned inwards on the ' intestines.' In the course of twelve years experience in Jamaica, and from every account he has been able to procure from different parts of the West Indies, Mr. Moseley has invariably had occasion to be convinced of the truth of Sydenham's opinion, and has remarked, that " as the flux distinguishes by the number of " stools



" stools the quantity, so it does the state of the  
 " fever of the season, when it prevails, or of  
 " the subject diseased; the stools being most  
 " frequent at those hours when fevers are in  
 " their exacerbation." He is persuaded that  
 this fever, like most others, is caused by ob-  
 structed perspiration; not confined to cold, hot,  
 wet, or dry seasons; particular food, water, li-  
 quors, or fruit; but chiefly depending on sud-  
 den transitions, and such other causes, as expose  
 people to have this discharge hastily stopped.  
 Having ever adapted his practice to this prin-  
 ciple, so he assures us he has seen the complaint  
 constantly relieved, by bringing back that dis-  
 charge to its natural channel, and that he has  
 seldom found it difficult to remove it speedily,  
 when taken in the beginning. He very properly  
 condemns the practice of attacking the disorder  
 in the bowels with opiates and astringents, and  
 observes, that Dover's powder and other dia-  
 phoretic medicines recommended for the flux  
 have hitherto been exhibited in such a manner  
 as often to have produced more harm than  
 good; a clear proof, he thinks, that the skin  
 has not been really looked to for relief. He  
 ascribes the good effects of ipecacoanha and  
 antimonials in this disease solely to their in-  
 creasing the determination to the skin.



Speaking of emetic tartar, he remarks, that it is in many respects a dangerous medicine (except merely as an emetic) in hot climates, where the nervous system is so extremely irritable, and that when “ injudiciously given to young, irritable, plethoric people, in the beginning of a fever, and previous to proper evacuations, instead of exciting a diaphoresis, a spasm is produced in the stomach; incessant vomiting; inflammation; the vessels of the thorax and head are stifled with blood, and the patient vomits away his life.” In a note to this passage the author observes, that experience has shewn the ill consequence of vomits in the inflammatory fever which Europeans are subject to on their arrival in the West Indies; and that it is easily cured by bleeding and cathartics, frequently repeated; and in general by a cooling regimen.

After offering some remarks on the situation and construction of hospitals, and condemning the little huts used for this purpose in Jamaica, where the patient is placed at a door-way, or raised on a platform to the level of an open window to prevent suffocation, our author proceeds to illustrate his subject by a short account of the dysentery, as it appeared at the time of

his writing (May 1780) amongst the troops in that island, together with his method of treating it. The disease, we are told, was not prevalent in the camp at Fort Castile, the situation of which was in a rising, airy situation near the sea, free from stagnant water and unwholesome exhalations, but exposed to the force of all the elementary transitions.

The general symptoms were a chillness in the beginning, succeeded by feverish heats; gripings, and frequent small motions; sickness of the stomach, and sometimes retchings; these were soon followed by copious purging, with green, brown, or yellow watery stools, mixed with or succeeded by great discharges of blood. The stools varied in foetor and appearance, according to the periods of the disease, or as they were more or less retained. In some the disease was preceded and accompanied by a considerable degree of fever; in others the pulse was but little affected. In the last stages of the disease the patient was continually harrassed, particularly at night, with small, bloody, slimy stools; the tongue was greatly furred, and sometimes of a brown or black colour; apthæ appeared but seldom.—This was the general account of those who experienced the violence of the disease, and  
survived

survived the first week; but many who were seized at the beginning of the epidemic perished within that time. The curative indications, according to our author, were to cause a revulsion to the surface of the body, and to cleanse the intestines. He generally began with bleeding the patient, after which he prescribed a vomit of ipecacoanha and an opiate. The bowels were then evacuated by a suitable dose of James's powder, which, at the same time that it effectually cleansed the *primæ viæ*, never failed, we are told, to excite a plentiful sweat.

The revulsion having been thus begun, was completed by sudorifics. This was effected by uniting the Thebaic tincture with antimonial wine, and administering them as occasion required. The author remarks, that it is always necessary in the flux, when a sweat is intended by antimonial or other emetic medicines in small doses, to add opium to take off their irritation; by which means their doses and effects may be greatly extended.

When the diaphoresis was begun, the patient was covered with a blanket, and care taken that the cool air should not be admitted directly upon him; at the same time he was plentifully supplied with warm diluting liquors.

Mr. Moseley observes, that when the sudorific process has been successfully continued, all the symptoms grow milder; and if an eruption appears on the skin the disease soon vanishes. But, on the contrary, if the flux continues obstinate and the sweats go on kindly, it will not only be requisite to carry off the morbid humours by a dose of the antimonial purgative, but repeated vomits of ipecacoanha are to be given.

Another cause of obstinacy in the flux are indurated fœces lodged in the intestines, for which reason, when the sweats have been plentiful, the pulse moderate, and the flux still continues troublesome, we are advised to repeat the antimonial purgative.

Our author pursues this method, repeating it as occasion may require, till the patient is in a condition to take the bark, and other tonics.—When the flux, as will sometimes happen, continues troublesome from mere weakness, without any material gripings or feverish symptoms, he never hesitates to give bark with snake-root and wine. He cautions us, however, against the use of bark in substance in these cases, as it causes irritation and griping, and endangers a return of the disease. A strong decoction of it therefore is to be preferred.

As

As the flux is always increased at the approach of night, so for some time after it has abated the patient grows feverish in the evening. On this account we are advised to desist from the bark, and give a gentle diaphoretic at night. The remaining acrimony, which sometimes keeps up a slight irritation after every other symptom is removed, may be corrected by absorbents, and carried off before the use of the bark; or at any subsequent period, if it should recur, with rhubarb and magnesia, or any mild cathartic. During the convalescent state of those who have been much reduced, and to prevent a relapse, a flannel jacket is recommended to be worn next the skin.

Mr. Moseley remarks, that in some cases, when the attack is sudden and violent, it will be necessary to give opiates and cordials, in order to “arrest the hurry of the disease; to procure “time to put some rational means of cure into “execution; to give other medicines their intended effect, and to ease those *tormina*, which “are otherwise intolerable.” In any other situation, however, he condemns the use of opium, given alone and continued for any length of time, as being likely to produce the most baneful effects.

In

In an advertisement prefixed to the work, the author informs us, that as the practice of military hospitals in Europe is not suitable to the seasons and climate of the West Indies, he intends shortly to communicate some observations he is furnished with, on the cure and treatment of other diseases incident to the army.

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III. *Experiments and Observations, &c.* By Joseph Priestley, L. L. D. F. R. S. Vol. II. (Continued from page 9.)

**I**N the 6th and 7th sections Dr. Priestley treats of the air produced by substances putrefying in water and in quicksilver. The experiments in this and the following section were entered upon chiefly to discover the *principle of nutrition* in vegetable and animal substances, and they seem to lead us to suppose that this principle is phlogiston in such a state as to be capable of becoming, by putrefaction, a true inflammable air. The author finds that substances putrefying in water yield many times more air than when they putrefy in quicksilver.

In the 8th section the author shews that iron filings and brimstone, made into a paste with water,



water, yield inflammable air; and he is led to suspect, that air is never phlogisticated but by means of inflammable air, either in its *nascent*, or *perfect* state.

Dr. Ingenhoufsz, Signor Moscati, and Mr. Cruikshank affirm, that *perspiration* as well as *respiration* injures the surrounding air, converting it either into fixed or phlogisticated air: but Dr. Priestley in the 9th section shews, by more careful and accurate experiments, that these gentlemen were mistaken. In the 10th section he refutes the opinion that the fixed air, discovered by respiration, is a compound of common air and phlogiston, and shews that it is only precipitated from the common air. It has usually been believed, that a man phlogisticates or *consumes* a gallon of air in a minute; but Dr. Priestley reduces it to a fourth part of that quantity.

In the 11th section he treats of the fixed air discovered by putrefaction. From the experiments related it seems to appear, that the whole of it is precipitated from the common air by the inflammable principle; that it is not less than *a fifth* part of the whole; and of course that the *whole diminution* is owing to this precipitation of fixed air. He relates some instances however where the diminution was completed at once,  
and

and yet no fixed air was found; and acknowledges himself at a loss to account for so singular a phenomenon. *Quere*, Whether it did not unite with the *alkaline* basis of the inflammable air into a minute quantity of fixed substance, (solid or fluid) in the same manner as marine acid and alkaline air unite and condense into common sal ammoniac?

The 12th section treats of several unexpected changes, produced in various kinds of air, by the same processes. And the experiments related in the 13th confirm the author's former observation, that fishes phlogistificate the common or dephlogisticated air contained in water.

The 14th section contains some new experiments concerning the production and constitution of dephlogisticated air. Dr. Priestley observes, that it is obtained with the least trouble and expence from nitre; and from the experiments adduced it appears, that it is composed of a principle common to the nitrous and vitriolic acids, and about a twelfth part of an earth. By experiments described in the close of this section it appears, that mercury is more easily reduced to a calx, or precipitate *per se*, in proportion as the air which surrounds it is free from phlogiston.

At

At the end of Dr. Ingenhoufz's late treatise, an important discovery of the Abbé Fontana's is annexed; and it is asserted as a *fact*, that by breathing dephlogisticated air through lime water it will serve for respiration thirty times as long as in the ordinary way, by reason that the lime water frees it from *fixed air*. The experiments related in the 15th section demonstrate that both the *fact* and the *reasoning* urged in support of it are void of foundation.

The 16th section contains several observations relating to fixed air; and the 17th treats of the state of air in water. In the 18th are given some new observations on nitrous air; and in the 19th the author considers the phenomena of the mixture of nitrous and common air, with a view to the improvement of eudiometers. He had formerly observed, that if after having mixed equal quantities of the two kinds of air in a wide jar, he made them ascend very quickly into the long tube on which the measures were marked, the diminution was more considerable than when he made them ascend more slowly. This difference he since finds to arise from part of the undecomposed nitrous air being absorbed by the water in the latter case. Dr. Ingenhoufz had published an account of the Abbé Fontana's

eudiometrical method, by which it was pretended that the strength of the nitrous air was a matter of no consequence, and which therefore would have been a very advantageous discovery : but Dr. Priestley has shewn this to have been an error.

In the 20th and 21st sections the author treats of a species of air which he had formerly discoursed of, in which a candle burns with an enlarged flame, and sometimes also with a crackling noise, and which therefore he now calls *dephlogisticated nitrous air*. This air he thinks consists of a dephlogisticated nitrous vapour diffused through a quantity either of nitrous or phlogisticated air; for the former may be separated by means of water, the latter remaining behind. This air, though it serves for combustion, is fatal to animal life; which the author ingeniously accounts for, from the known facts that many substances can act on one another when they are hot, which do not at all affect each other when cold. This air may be obtained in large quantities, by precipitating a solution of copper in spirit of nitre with iron : and also by other methods.

In the 22d section some curious experiments are related, by which it appears that alkaline air  
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is capable of being converted into genuine, inflammable air by means of the electric spark. The author infers from hence, that the basis of inflammable air is not an acid, as he once imagined, but an alkali. Mr. Bewley in his ingenious observations on several parts of this volume, inserted in the appendix, renders it probable that the electric spark in this case acts only by its *heat*.

In the 23d section the author gives some new instances of the great volatility of mercury, which is known to evaporate *in vacuo*, in the common temperature of the atmosphere. Mr. Bewley in his remarks on this section at the end of the volume has also given his own observations on this curious subject. The 24th section contains a variety of experiments made with the nitrous acid and metallic calces.

The 25th section treats of the mixture of nitrous and vitriolic acid. One of the most extraordinary circumstances attending this mixture is the extreme volatility that it gives to the nitrous acid, the whole of it making its escape. This separation may also be effected by ~~expressing~~ ~~ing~~ the mixture to nitrous air, which phlogisticates the nitrous acid, and thereby renders it extremely volatile. The marine acid, when

mixed with vitriolic acid, also escapes in the form of air.

The 26th section treats of the marine acid, and marine acid air. The author finds that if this acid be dephlogisticated, it will not assume the form of air; and of course that a certain quantity of phlogiston is necessary to form the marine, as well as the nitrous and vitriolic acids, into airs.

The 27th section is the author's paper on the *lateral electric explosion*, which was printed in the 60th volume of the Philosophical Transactions. The 28th contains some new experiments in electricity, particularly on the supposed non-conducting power of water and quicksilver when in the state of vapour.

In the 29th section the author relates some experiments which he had made on sound in different kinds of air: the result of which was, that the intensity of sound depends solely on the *density* of the air in which it is made, without any regard to its chemical properties. The vapour of water is also known to be a medium of sound.

The 30th section contains miscellaneous experiments; and, amongst others, that air rendered exceedingly offensive to the nostrils by  
putre-



putrefaction is not always properly phlogistified; the particles which affect the smell not being combined with, but only diffused through the air, and may be separated by passing the air through water.

The 31st section consists of remarks on the preceding volumes of the author's *Observations on Air*, explaining and correcting them by the help of subsequent experiments and observations. And the 32d section contains a summary of all the most remarkable facts in the present and four preceding volumes, digested under proper heads, with references to the volumes and pages; which those who have occasion to consult these volumes will find exceedingly useful.

The 33d and last section contains experiments made after the preceding sections were sent to press; and, amongst others, on the power of *conducting heat* in different kinds of air. The author found that inflammable air conducted heat much better than any other kind; fixed and acid air considerably worse than common air; alkaline air rather better than acid; and dephlogistified air a little worse than common air. In making these experiments he observed, that alkaline air was remarkably expanded by the heat, agreeably to his former observations on that subject.

An

An Appendix is subjoined to the volume containing letters on philosophical subjects from several of the author's friends. The first of these is from Mr. Arden, giving an account of his having imitated the phenomenon of the *fire ball* by artificial electricity. The 2d is from Mr. Bewley, containing observations on several parts of the volume, together with experiments on the fixed air or mephitic acid discovered by respiration. The 3d is from Mr. Watt, and also contains observations on different parts of this volume. The 4th is from Dr. Withering, describing a new apparatus for impregnating water with fixed air. The 5th is from Mr. Warltire on the firing of inflammable air in *close vessels*. He finds that there is a *loss of weight* in these cases, and this he attributes to the latent heat, or fire, which is extricated and dispersed in the operation. If this be true, we are furnished with a proof that fire is actually heavy: the fact however requires to be confirmed by repeated and diversified trials; and we heartily recommend it to Mr. Warltire to prosecute so extraordinary an experiment.

We have thus given as ample an abstract of this excellent work as the nature of our plan will permit; but for an account of the author's numerous

numerous experiments, and a variety of other interesting particulars which are not here noticed, we are obliged to refer our readers to the performance itself.

IV. *Histoire de l'Academie Royale des Sciences.*

*Année 1777. Avec les memoires de mathématique et de physique, pour la même année, tirés des Registres de cette Academie. i. e. History of the Royal Academy of Sciences for the year 1777; with the mathematical and philosophical memoirs for that year, taken from the Registers of the Academy. 4to. Paris, 1780. 828 pages, with 14 copper-plates.*

**I**N the historical part of this volume, which employs 154 pages, we find the eulogies of Jussieu, Bourdelin, and Haller, from each of which we mean to give extracts in some future number of our Journal. The memoirs that fall within the plan of our work, are as follows:

I. *Fifth memoir on Zinc, by M. de Laffone.*—

The object of this paper is to examine the effects of caustic volatile alkali, fixed mineral alkali, lime water, and the acetous acid on this semi-metal. From a variety of experiments it appears,

pears, that caustic fixed alkalis (when concentrated) dissolve a part of the zinc, and reduce the remainder to a state of calx. Caustic volatile alkali at first did not seem to have any sensible operation on the zinc, but after a time it attacked it in a manner very different from what simple water would do, and the mixture was attended with a singular phenomenon, particles of the zinc uniting with the glass vessel in which it was digested, and assuming a dark grey colour.

M. de Laffone observes, that from every solution of zinc black flakes are separated in greater or less abundance. These flakes are the same, whatever menstruum is employed. He finds that they are soluble in acids, and that alkalis precipitate them in the form of a white earth. He proves that they contain nothing of an inflammable or metallic nature, and he considers them as an absorbent earth, which owes its black colour to a small portion of phlogiston it has retained.

The author concludes this paper with some observations on the medicinal effects of zinc. Preparations of this semi-metal are employed in disorders of the eye; but instead of the calx which is commonly used for this purpose, he recom-

recommends the acetous salt of zinc. He observes, that this salt, being more soluble in water than the acetous salt of lead, might be advantageously substituted in its stead. Flowers of zinc have been strongly recommended by Gaubius and others as a sedative remedy; but our author asserts, that although he has repeatedly prescribed them in his own practice, he never experienced any such effect from them; and he adds, that a physician of his acquaintance, of extensive practice, and who for several years gave the flowers of zinc in a variety of convulsive cases, and in larger doses than those recommended by Gaubius, never found them more powerfully sedative than the ordinary remedies to which this quality is attributed.

II. *A description of the nerves of the second and third cervical pairs.* By M. Vicq d'Azyr.

No part of anatomy has been more diligently cultivated by the moderns than neurology. To Walther, Senac, and Haller, we are indebted for minute accounts of the intercostal nerve; Meckel has immortalized himself by his description of the fifth and seventh pair of nerves; the nerves of the last cervical pair, which serve chiefly to form the great plexuses of the arm, and the nerves of the pelvis, have been carefully

described by Camper, as those of the first cervical pair have by Asche; and M. Vicq d'Azyr in the paper before us gives us a very exact description of the second and third cervical pairs, the branches of which are very numerous. The accounts that have been hitherto given of these two pairs by anatomical writers are either erroneous or too concise. These were the author's reasons, as he informs us, for undertaking this task. Like Meckel, he has divided his dissertation into three parts; in the first he gives the remarks of the best authors on the subject; the second is employed in anatomical description; and in the third he explains the uses of these nerves.

III. *Of the combustion of Kunckel's phosphorus, and of the nature of the acid which results from this combustion.* By M. Lavoisier.

Since the discoveries made by M. Margraff with regard to phosphorus, this substance has been considered as a particular animal acid combined with phlogiston, in the same manner as sulphur is supposed to be formed by vitriolic acid united with that principle. From the experiments related in the present paper it appears, that this theory, though it may be well founded, is far from being complete.

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M. Lavoisier found that upon attempting to burn phosphorus in a close vessel the quantity consumed was small compared with the mass of air contained in the vessel. This mass was diminished one fifth, and the acid produced by the combustion of the phosphorus being collected, was found to exceed the weight of the phosphorus employed in the experiment. This excess of weight was equal to the quantity of air absorbed. The remaining air was unfit for respiration or combustion, but on adding to it a quantity of vital air produced by the reduction of precipitate *per se*, it resumed all its properties of atmospheric air. Similar phenomena took place in the combustion of sulphur. Hence M. Lavoisier is inclined to consider sulphur as an acid deprived of this air, and the acid as a sulphur to which it has been restored.

From these enquiries our author proceeds to consider the combinations of the phosphoric acid with alkaline and metallic substances. Upon being poured into lime water the mixture became turbid, and afforded a precipitate similar to that produced by fixed air. The author observes, however, that the precipitates in these two cases (notwithstanding the resemblance which some have supposed between the acid of

phosphorus and fixed air) are essentially different; one being a chalk insoluble in water, and effervescing with acids; the other a soluble phosphoric salt liable to no such effervescence.

IV. *Of the means of improving the breed of Sheep.* By M. Daubenton. — The ingenious author of this paper has been employed for several years past, under the patronage of the intendant of the finances, in prosecuting a variety of interesting experiments for ascertaining the best means of improving the breed of sheep in France. For this purpose a numerous flock has been constantly under his direction since the year 1767; sheep have been procured from Roussillon, Flanders, England, Morocco, and even Thibet; and, in a word, no means have been neglected that could possibly promote the object in view.

M. Daubenton has from time to time communicated the result of his observations to the academy, and several of his papers on this subject have appeared in different volumes of their memoirs. In his present paper we meet with several curious remarks.

It is well known that, in general, by mixing different breeds of the same species we procure a mixture of the two, and a new breed, but the particular influence of the male or female

female on these occasions seems hitherto, to have escaped the attention of naturalists. M. Daubenton has observed, that in sheep, if we employ the female of the breed we mean to introduce, the wished-for improvement is not thoroughly obtained without a great number of crossings, whereas two are frequently sufficient to give the new breed its utmost degree of perfection, provided rams are employed instead of ewes; it being a fact that lambs of either sex have constantly a much greater resemblance to their father than their mother. Whether this observation holds good with other species of animals remains yet to be determined.

V. *Analysis of some waters brought from Italy by M. Cassini, jun.* By M. Lavoisier.—These waters were brought from the neighbourhood of Latera, famous for its mines of alum and sulphur. They proved to be of an aluminous nature, yet did not yield alum when evaporated, but only a saline mass with an excess of acid. M. Lavoisier found that by saturating this acid with an alkali, a precipitate was produced which was redissolved. When the saturation was complete the evaporation afforded crystals of alum, and no marks of alkali remained. This confirms the observations made by Margraff and Macquer, that

that the earth of alum is not a simple earth, but a combination of alkali with an argillaceous earth.

[ *To be continued.* ]

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V. *Miscellaneous surgical essays, by J. L. Schincker, Vol. II. (Continued from page 20.)*

XIV. **A** *Case in which a portion of the thigh bone was extracted from an abscess. By Mr. Horn.*—The abscess here spoken of came on after a quartan. It suppurated and was opened, but for a considerable length of time shewed no disposition to heal. At length a portion of bone exfoliated and was extracted, soon after which a cure was effected. The patient informed our author, that thirteen years before the appearance of this abscess he had hurt his thigh by a fall, which had left a swelling that was occasionally attended with pain, so that the whole of his complaint probably arose from that accident.

XV. *Observations on the abuse of blood-letting in forced marches. By the same.*—The author remarks, that venæsection often proves fatal when practised after a forced march, and at a time when the soldier, fatigued by the heat of the season and climate, and, worn down with fatigue,

fatigue, is sinking under the weight of his baggage. He tells us, he has often met with instances of this sort. The countenance of the patient was generally pale, his eyes prominent, his voice, respiration, and pulse weak and sometimes hardly perceptible. Some were delirious, and these he observes commonly died. If they were bled the blood came away by drops, and the evacuation generally proved fatal.

The mode of treatment recommended by Mr. Horn in these cases is as follows : he directs the patients to be laid in a cool situation, with their head and breast a little elevated. He then advises vinegar (or, if that cannot be had, spirit of vitriol diluted with water) to be given them to drink. At the same time the hands and face of such as are senseless are to be bathed with vinegar, and volatile alkali applied to their nostrils. If this method should fail to rouse them the internal membrane of the nose is to be lightly touched with a straw, till a sneezing is excited, after which we are told that in general the patient gradually recovers, and it is then advisable for him to march on again as soon as possible.

Mr. Horn observes, that many were prevented from falling, by giving them acidulated drink  
and

and allowing them a little rest as soon as they began to be affected.

XVI. *Case of a caries of the os frontis.* By the same.—This disease was owing to a venereal taint. There were two fistulous openings in the forehead, which afforded an ichorous discharge, but the integuments were neither discoloured nor painful, so that the patient wore his hat as usual without any inconvenience. He died of a fever, and on dissection our author found the outer table of the os frontis intirely consumed and the sinus frontales obliterated. This case is a curious confirmation of what has been more than once observed with respect to the almost imperceptible progress of a venereal caries.

XVII. *Case of an inverted scirrhus uterus.* By the same. This complaint was the consequence of delivery. The inverted uterus remained for a long time in the vagina, but at length prolapsed, and was then found to be scirrhus. Its bulk was equal to that of a child's head, and from its surface, which had several scirrhus excrescences, an acrid foetid mucus was perpetually exuding. At length it became gangrenous and the patient died.

XVIII. *Case of a gun-shot wound.* By Mr. Völker.—In this case the ball penetrated into the  
the



the abdomen, and passed, as appeared afterwards, near the left kidney. Violent symptoms ensued; the patient complained of a burning pain in the neighbourhood of the spine, and the wound discharged only a fœtid ichor. On the twenty-fourth day after the accident, the ball was discharged by stool, and all the symptoms were mitigated. On the thirty-sixth day, however, they returned with increased violence, but were again relieved by the discharge of several pieces of cloth from the wound. After this the patient's life was a third time endangered by an error in diet, which occasioned violent spasms of the intestines. A diarrhœa relieved him from these alarming symptoms, and he afterwards gradually recovered.

XIX. *An account of the amputation of an arm after a gun-shot wound, by Mr. Budæus.*—In the case here related the patient's strength was so much reduced by the profuse suppuration occasioned by the wound, that it was feared he would not survive the amputation of his arm. Happily, however, soon after the operation the hectic fever subsided, and by means of a nourishing diet the patient recovered in a short time.

XX. *Remarks on the efficacy of topical bleeding in local inflammations of the head, by Mr. Sellie.*—

As a proof of the good effects of this practice the author speaks of a wound of the head, attended with stupor, in which the trepan was applied, and the vessels of the dura mater being found extremely distended with blood, an incision was made into them, and the patient soon afterwards recovered his senses. Mr. Sellie mentions another case, which deserves to be noticed, on account of a singular circumstance that attended it. It seems that on applying the trepan to a patient's skull, the instrument made its way through the bone much sooner than was expected, and wounded the brain. On inquiry it was found that this part of the cranium was carious. Notwithstanding this dangerous accident, however, the patient got well.

XXI. *On the efficacy of Peruvian bark in a case of abscess attended with a caries of the os humeri, by the same.*—The abscess here described came on after a putrid fever, and produced a caries of the head of the os humeri and of the processes of the scapula, by which the capsular ligament and several muscles were destroyed, so that the cavity of the joint became exposed. The patient laboured at the same time under hectic fever, colliquative sweats, and diarrhoea. In this alarming state our author administered the bark, and

and in the space of six weeks had the pleasure of seeing his patient perfectly recovered.

XXII. *Case of a mortification of the fore-arm, by Mr. Morgensfern.* In this case the patient's arm was at first cold and without pulse. These symptoms were followed by violent pain and inflammation, which terminated in a mortification. The limb was amputated about the middle of the os humeri, and upon dissection the three principal branches of the humeral artery were found completely obstructed by a dry polypous concretion of a dark red colour, so that not a drop of blood could pass through them. It appeared that some time before this the patient had had a fractured clavicle, the callus of which on examination seemed to be very irregular, and that end of it which is attached to the acromion was depressed.

XXIII. *Case of a cancerous clitoris, by Mr. Kramer.*—The clitoris in this case was equal to three fingers in thickness, and an inch in length. At its fore part it was in a state of ulceration, and covered with cancerous excrescences, so as to resemble the head of a cauliflower. The left nymphæ was free from disease, but the right was much indurated. An attempt was first made to remove the clitoris by ligature; but this me-

thod proved so extremely painful that our author found it necessary to have recourse to the knife, with which he extirpated it completely, together with the schirrous portion of the diseased nympha. The hæmorrhage was easily suppressed by the application of agaric, and the cure accomplished without any bad symptoms.

XXIV. *Case of an aneurism, by the same.*— In this case the coats of the diseased vessel burst, but the hæmorrhage was stopt by means of the tourniquet, after which the artery was secured by a ligature, and a few hours after the operation the pulse was felt in the wrist, so that the patient seemed to be in a fair way of recovery. Unexpectedly, however, a locked jaw took place on the fifth day, and in two hours destroyed the patient. The author ascribes this fatal spasm to the irritable habit of the patient, and assures us, that he had not included the nerve in the ligature.

[ *To be continued.* ]

SECTION

## SECTION II.

## ESSAYS AND OBSERVATIONS.

*Two cases of scurvy attended with some uncommon circumstances. By Mr. William Coleman, surgeon at Sandwich in Kent. Communicated by Samuel Foart Simmons, M. D. F. R. S. Read July 9, 1781.*

**M**ISS M. C. aged about 17 years, of a healthy, strong constitution, took cold while on a visit at a neighbouring village, and on her return to Sandwich in the evening of Monday, May 1, complained of being slightly indisposed. The next morning she told me she had spit blood from her gums, and I advised her to wash her mouth with vinegar, but this did not stop the discharge. In the afternoon I perceived a purple spot on her right cheek, and on removing her handkerchief ten or twelve more were discovered on her shoulders and breasts, and a still greater number on her right arm. Alarmed at these appearances, I requested the advice of a physician, who recommended a strong decoction of bark and snake-root, with lemon juice, to be given as often as her stomach would bear it. At the same time she was de-  
fired

fired to eat plentifully of oranges, and to drink frequently of red port wine.

Blood continued to flow very fast from the mouth, and a little from the nostrils, which we filled with lint moistened with *Aqua Styptica*. The mouth was frequently washed with the tincture of roses, but the blood continuing to issue from the gums, they were touched with aqua styptica.

May 3. This day the catamenia came on, and discharged very considerably. On enquiry we found it was a week before the usual period. The patient's pulse was strong and regular, and she did not seem to lose her strength so much as I expected, considering the discharge.

May 4. She had a natural stool: the discharge from the gums was somewhat lessened, but the catamenia still continued in the same degree as yesterday. We now perceived more spots on her legs, and the next morning (after a very restless night) we discovered several fresh ones, particularly on one of her arms. Those that first appeared were more florid than when we first noticed them.

May 6. The discharges were nearly the same as before, but her pulse was as good as if she had been in perfect health. At night she was extremely restless.

May



*May 7.* The patient having had no evacuation by stool since Thursday, a common glyster was injected, and brought away with it a great quantity of black hardened fœces. She felt herself better after this evacuation and had a good night; but still continued to spit a great deal of blood, and the catamenia did not abate.

*May 8.* She seemed to be rather better, when an hæmorrhage came on suddenly from the left nostril. I found her pulse much quickened, which I attributed to her hurry of spirits. She complained of sickness, and vomited a pint basin full of a dark coloured liquor mixed with a good deal of pure blood. The discharge from the nose was stopped by styptic applications to the nostrils, but she still felt the blood flowing down her throat. She was now very pale and sick, and vomited another pint basin full of blood, &c. as before. The hæmorrhage, which began about twelve o'clock, abated about three, and at four o'clock entirely ceased.

*May 9.* She was much better. As she had swallowed so much blood, and had not had a stool since the last glyster, it was repeated, and with the same good effect as before. Before night the catamenia had quite ceased, the day following (Wednesday, May 10) the saliva was  
dis-

discharged without the least tinge of blood. She now mended very rapidly.

*May 11.* I gave her ten grains of rhubarb with the decoction of bark, and repeated the same dose at night. This produced two natural stools. Since that time she has taken the bark in substance, and milk from the cow night and morning; and is recovering her health and strength very fast. It is remarkable, that on the day after the bleeding from the nose, the spots that were before of a purple colour suddenly changed to a bright red.

To investigate the cause of this disease may be difficult, but I think it right to mention a circumstance which may perhaps throw some light on it; and this is, that at home the patient seldom eats fish, and it happened that during the week she spent at her friends, they had frequent dinners and suppers of fish, of which she ate very heartily. Her gums too, she tells me, have for some time past been apt to bleed on the least touch.

To this case I shall add another of a similar nature, but attended with much more formidable symptoms, communicated to me by my brother-in-law, Mr. JOHN ROBINS, surgeon at Ashford, and which I shall give in his own words, extracted

fracted from his letter to me on the occasion.  
 “ In February 1780 Mrs. Sweetlove of Westwell, about four miles from Ashford, on waking in the morning perceived blood in her mouth, and by the time I saw her in the afternoon had spit into a basin a pint and a half of pure blood. Upon looking into her mouth I observed the blood streaming down the teeth of the upper jaw. I likewise perceived many extravasations in the mouth, and upon further examination discovered petechiæ in various parts of the body, and a sanies discharged by an issue and two ulcers. A day or two after this blood began to flow copiously from the vagina, so that in four days (before which the hæmorrhage did not seem to abate) she had lost a great quantity of blood. I gave her half a drachm of bark in substance every hour and a half, with mineral acids and tincture of roses, and directed her to eat Seville oranges and to drink red wine. On the second day of the uterine hæmorrhage a physician was sent for. He made no change in the mode of treatment, but we were soon obliged to vary it, for the acids disagreed that day with her stomach so much, that she kept nothing down, for which reason their use was from that time discontinued, and ten grains of

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ipecacuanha given as a puke before we began with the bark again. The patient continued the use of the bark till the latter end of May, when she tired of it, and in its stead I gave her the *Cortex. Eleuther. & Vin. Amar.* Her diet consisted at first almost entirely of asses' milk, but after some little time she took animal food, and during the summer months ate very largely of currants, which she was remarkably fond of. By these means before the end of August, after experiencing a variety of symptoms from a weak fibre and impoverished blood, she was restored to a tolerable state of health. It seems right to add, that the patient is naturally of a highly scorbutic habit with a serophulous taint, as is evident from several indurated glands about her neck and axillæ, and from a disposition to hectic fever, which is probably owing to a similar cause in the lungs."

*Sandwich, May 18, 1781.*

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II. *A remarkable case of uterine hæmorrhage. By Thomas Blackburne, M. D. F. R. S. physician at Durham. Read July 16, 1781.*

**M.** B. a married woman aged 46, of a thin, spare habit, by trade a cook, had for some

some years scorbutic eruptions on her arms, hands, and fingers, which, being detrimental to her in her profession, she had repelled with some strong ointment several times. From the beginning of the year 1778 these eruptions returned no more, but she was troubled with frequent and large floodings for about a year.

An excessive discharge of this kind happened to her about the middle of July 1779, attended with a sense of bearing down *ex anteriori*, and very severe acute pains in her left hypogastrium, which continued with very little intermission for three weeks, attended with looseness and vomiting. She described them as being not like labour-pains, but more severe, and said that they always began on the left side. She was treated as for an inflammation of the bowels with bleeding, &c. About the third week she found that she had passed by the vagina a small, round substance about the size of a plum, which she compared to a little bag full of something tied up, and at the same time an offensive putrid mass hanging from the vagina. In this situation she continued some days, with a very copious putrid discharge daily from the mass, and was then removed 20 miles in a post-chaise to Durham, where I first saw her on the 1st of Sep-

tember 1779. I found her greatly reduced by the disease, and the room, in which she was, so intolerably offensive that it was scarcely possible to stay in it, though it was full of flowers and the window wide open. The discharge was considerably abated, and there was a membranous substance hanging out six or eight inches from the vagina, the end of which was dry and like a piece of the dried coat of a bladder; nearer the vagina moist and discharging putrid matter. I ordered her a strong decoction of the bark to be taken frequently, and visited her the next day with an eminent surgeon and man-midwife of this city. He examined her, and found the projecting body extend up the vagina as far as his hand could reach, but growing thicker and thicker the higher it went. He could not satisfy himself of its extent or attachment, but proposed a ligature to be made as high in the vagina as possible upon this substance to bring it away.

The next day, however, it had come away spontaneously, and proved to be a large, putrid, indistinct mass, weighing about three pounds; of a round shape, (like the fundus uteri) at its base, of about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches in its largest diameter, and tapering almost regularly into the membrane above described, with which it was covered throughout.

The



The covering membrane was thin, and the substance through it appeared convoluted like the lobes of the cerebrum mixed with coagulated blood; there appeared no inner cavity, but the substance was in too dissolved and putrid state to be described particularly.

The woman recovered her health every day from this delivery, and has been very regular and enjoyed her health since that time much better than before. She never complained of any extraordinary fullness during the disease, nor of any difference in her size and feelings since.

Cases in some respects similar to this are to be met with in books; but the coming on of the flooding after the repulsion of a cutaneous eruption, and the extraordinary bulk of the coagulum (for such it seems to have been) are circumstances perhaps not undeserving the attention of the Society. Ruysch has observed, that blood coagulated in the uterus has often been mistaken for a false conception, and that by compression it has frequently acquired a firm, and even membranous appearance. Observations of the same nature occur likewise in Morgagni and other practical writers.

*Durham, July 1, 1781.*

## SECTION

## SECTION III.

## MEDICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL NEWS.

**T**HE Royal Academy of surgery at Paris have proposed the following question for a prize of twelve hundred livres: "What is the best method of removing with safety those blemishes in the face that are occasioned by gunpowder?"—The dissertations on this subject are to be written in French or Latin, and sent to M. Louis, secretary to the academy, before the 1st of April 1782.

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Extract of a letter from Professor Ploucquet, of the university of Tubingen, to a member of the society:

"Some time ago I had occasion to treat a case of inguinal hernia in a female patient. It appeared in the right groin, but was so small that it was impossible to determine whether it was a portion of intestine or omentum that protruded. The patient was troubled with colic, vomiting, and the other usual symptoms of an incarcerated hernia. Repeated attempts were made to reduce it, but without effect, as it constantly

stantly slipped from under my fingers, till at length upon introducing two of my fingers into the vagina, and placing them immediately under the hernia, while with my other hand the necessary pressure was made externally on the abdomen, I easily succeeded in the reduction. It has returned several times since, but has always been reduced in the same manner without the least difficulty. Perhaps a similar method might be useful in cases of this sort in men. For this purpose the two fingers might be introduced into the anus."

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By a letter from Sweden we are informed, that a saturated infusion of *Ledum palustre*, continued for three or four months in leprosy, has effected a cure in several cases without the assistance of any other remedy.

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Extract of a letter from Dr. Michaelis, physician to the Hessian troops in America, to Professor Richter at Gottingen:

"It is remarkable, that patients labouring under a certain degree of scurvy cannot bear the open air. Several scorbutic patients on board

board our ship, when upon deck, intreated me for God's sake to order them to be carried down to that part of the vessel where they were accustomed to pass the night, and where the air was very bad, on account of the great number of people collected there night and day. Many of them died soon after their landing; as did a great number of other scorbutic patients belonging to the fleet. It is well known here, that of the scorbutic people who have long been confined in a ship's hold, many die as soon as they are brought upon deck, others in the boat that conveys them ashore, and some soon after their landing. We can hardly ascribe the deaths of such persons to fatigue (which indeed, when in a certain degree, might be very fatal to patients in so reduced a state) for they are carried upon deck in their beds, and conveyed from thence in the same manner into the boats. The fact is, that the pure air is too elastic for their enfeebled organs of respiration, so they die suffocated."

"From the experiments made here by the English army physicians Columbo root appears to have great powers in hypochondriacal affection, and to be an excellent medicine in the dysentery, provided the necessary evacuations have been  
been

been premised. They have likewise found the Arnica root of use in cases where the principal indication was to strengthen."

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Dr. Sigault, physician at Paris, has lately experienced good effects from the external use of cold water, in a case where the progress of labour was retarded by violent convulsions. Upon throwing a pailful of water (in which ice had been previously dissolved) on the patient, the spasms instantly subsided, and the os uteri soon began to dilate. By a few repetitions of this application the convulsions were entirely removed, and the os uteri in a short time was sufficiently open to allow of the introduction of the forceps, with which the patient was delivered of a dead child.

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The following account of the Cæfarean operation performed lately at Lyons is extracted from a periodical work, entitled "Observations sur les maladies regnantes à Lyon, par M. M. Viter et Petetin, medecins:"

"Pierette Mornon, a delicate woman aged 27 years, much deformed by the rickets, was brought to the hospital, February 25, 1781, in  
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labour. At ten o'clock in the forenoon the os uteri was dilated to the size of a half crown. At eleven, the waters being evacuated, the head of the foetus was felt above the brim of the pelvis, which it was prevented from entering by the too great projection of the os sacrum, where it joins the last lumbar vertebra. It being resolved to perform the Cæsarean section, an incision was made through the integuments in the direction of the linea alba six inches and a half in length. The incision into the uterus, four fingers breadth in length, was attended with considerable pain and hæmorrhage. The intestines and omentum, having forced their way through the wound, were supported while the foetus and placenta were extracted. The uterus instantly contracted. The intestines and omentum were retained by several stitches in the integuments, and by bandage.

“ From six o'clock in the evening (the time the operation was performed) till midnight, the patient complained of acute pain in the wound, and her strength was considerably diminished. At half past one, in the morning of February the 26th, the pulse became stronger and more frequent. She voided by the wound and vagina a reddish serum. At six o'clock the pulse became weaker



weaker and less frequent. At eight she seemed to be somewhat relieved by an oily fomentation. At four in the afternoon she was attacked with vomiting, hiccup, and cold sweats, her pulse and strength were sunk, her extremities grew cold, her features altered, and at six the next morning, February the 27th, she died.

“ Upon dissection the intestines and omentum appeared inflamed. The uterus was contracted to a moderate bulk. The diameter of the pelvis at its brim, measuring from pubis to sacrum, was about two inches; from side to side five inches. The iliac cavities were small, and bent inwards, especially the right.

“ On dividing the symphysis, the separation of the ossa pubis, by the mere elasticity of the parts, left a space of near an inch and a half. By turning the thighs outward, and separating them from each other, two inches were gained, and by bending them upon the abdomen the space was increased to two inches and a half, by which means the diameter of the pelvis from pubis to sacrum was found enlarged seven tenths of an inch, a space which seemed sufficient for the passage of a small head, such as that of the dead child.

“ Forty-eight hours after the dissection the muscles of the pelvis being removed, the ligaments and cartilages that connect the sacrum and ileum were examined, but did not appear to be in the least injured.”

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At a late monthly meeting of the College of Physicians at Paris, M. de l'Epine communicated a case of fever attended with a spontaneous hydrophobia. The patient bit a maid servant, but without infecting her. M. Phillip spoke of a similar case that occurred in his own practice, and proved fatal. The patient was a young lady, and the disease was ascribed to a suppression of the menses. M. Bajet related a case of tertian, each paroxysm of which was accompanied by an eruption of broad red spots on the skin, which disappeared in twenty or thirty minutes.— M. Rabel mentioned a case of uterine hæmorrhage cured by warm bathing.

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X The following is Mr. Scheele's method of preparing the *new green colour* mentioned in our last number :

“ Two pounds of blue vitriol are to be dissolved

solved in six pints of water in a copper vessel over the fire, after which two pounds of white, dry pot-ash, and eleven ounces of white arsenic in powder\*, are to be dissolved in two pints of pure water in another vessel of the same metal, and over the fire also. When this latter solution is complete, the lixivium is to be strained through a linen bag into another vessel.

“ This arsenical lixivium is to be poured by a little at a time into the above-mentioned solution of blue vitriol, taking care to stir the mixture all the time with a wooden spathula†. When the whole is mixed it is to be suffered to rest for some hours, when the green colour will fall to the bottom of the vessel.—The clear lixivium is then to be poured off, and the hot water § repeatedly poured on the sediment, which is afterwards to be poured on a linen cloth, and when the moisture has filtered through it, the

\* The operator will do well to powder the arsenic himself, as the powdered arsenic of the shops is often mixed with gypsum. He may convince himself of its purity by sprinkling a little of the arsenic on a stone heated red hot. If it evaporates entirely the arsenic is pure.

† As a considerable effervescence is produced by this mixture the vessel ought to be large enough to hold two gallons.

§ As this water will contain a little arsenic care must be taken not to throw it into any place where animals can have access to it.

green

green colour is to be made into small lumps and dried upon paper in a moderate heat.—The quantities above specified yield eighteen ounces and a half of a fine green colour.

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### PROMOTIONS.

*July 14.* James Hervey, M. B. of Queen's College, Oxford, to be M. D.—29. Dr. Bree to be physician to the County Hospital at Northampton, in the room of Dr. Fothergill, who has resigned.—31. Mr. John Connor to be surgeon to the General Hospital in the Leeward Islands.—*August 1.* William Hawes, M. D. to be physician to the Surry Dispensary.

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### DEATHS.

Lately, Mr. Robert Chetham, surgeon and apothecary at Wakefield in Yorkshire.—*June 6.* At Kingston, Jamaica, Mr. Thomas Hamilton, late surgeon of the ship *Minerva*.—*July 8.* In the convent of the Feuillans at Paris, Friar John de Badillac, better known by the name of Frere Cosme, famous for his invention of the *Lithotome caché*, a description of which first appeared in the *Journal des Sçavans* for 1748—14. At Portsmouth

mouth Common, after a short illness, Mr. Jones, apothecary.—25. At Lewisham in Kent, Mr. Thomas M'Carthy, surgeon.—*August* 4. At Stamford in Lincolnshire, of a putrid sore throat, Mr. Gilbert Smith, surgeon and apothecary at Frieftone near Grantham.

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## SECTION IV.

### MONTHLY CATALOGUE.

I. **A**N account of a method of preserving water, at sea, from putrefaction, and of restoring to the water its original pleasantness and purity, by a cheap and easy process: to which is added a mode of impregnating water, in large quantities, with fixed air, for medicinal uses, on board ships, and in hospitals; and likewise a process for the preparation of artificial yeast. By *Thomas Henry*, F. R. S. and member of the Medical Society of London. 8vo. *Johnson*, London, 1781. 43 pages, with three copper plates.

A method of preserving water free from putrefaction was some years since proposed by the late Dr. Alston. It consisted in adding a quantity of lime to every cask of water. That substance is known to have a strong antiseptic property;

perty ; and water, as long as it retains the impregnation of lime, never putrefies. But the lime communicates a disagreeable taste to the water, and, abstracted from that inconvenience, might, in many instances, be detrimental.

To free the water, at the time of using it, from the lime, Dr. Alston proposed the precipitation of the latter, by throwing into the water a quantity of magnesia alba ; on this principle, that as lime stone is rendered soluble in water by its deprivation of fixed air, and has a greater affinity with that air than magnesia has, the particles of quick lime dissolved in the water would attract the air from the magnesia, and thereby becoming no longer soluble, would fall to the bottom, and leave the water tasteless and fit for oeconomic uses.

Dr. Alston's theory was well founded, but the expence attending his method, owing to the price of magnesia, prevented it from being adopted. The process recommended in the pamphlet before us is free from this objection, and at the same time is easily practicable.

Mr. Henry's method of impregnating water with lime, consists in adding two pounds of well-burnt quick lime to every cask of water of 120 gallons. When the lime has been in the cask  
some



Some minutes, and the heat and effervescence occasioned by the mixture are over, the cask is to be carefully stopped from any communication with the external air. In order to restore water thus impregnated to its original taste the lime is to be precipitated by means of fixed air. For this purpose our author recommends a cask of a particular construction, of which an engraving is given in the work. The top is directed to be formed of one plank, and to have a piece cut out of the center, of a circular form, and as large as can be allowed without weakening the sides too much. This piece or bung is to be made to fit it as closely as possible, and to have an iron handle affixed to it, for the purpose of lifting it, and of confining a weight which is to be laid on, to keep the bung from yielding to a small force from within. A small hole is likewise to be bored in the side of the top, which is to be exactly stopped with a plug.

A cask thus constructed, which may be supposed to contain sixty gallons, is to be secured on a convenient part of the deck, or slung up in the shrouds, and filled with lime water, drawn off clear from the sediment, so as to avoid any visible particles of lime floating in it; allowing sufficient room for the air vessel, and a free space

of about half an inch between the surface of the water and the top of the cask.

To complete the apparatus a vessel is also to be prepared, capable of containing two gallons, or  $\frac{1}{30}$  of the capacity of the cask. Into this vessel are to be introduced half a pound of any mild calcareous earth (as marble, unburnt lime, stone, or chalk) grossly powdered, and two quarts of water. Three ounces of strong vitriolic acid are then to be poured gradually on this mixture, and a tubulated stopper placed in the mouth of the vessel, which is now to be let down by means of the strings into the cask. The fixed air, let loose from the mild calcareous earth, will bubble up through the lime water. When this has continued about a minute, the bung is to be fastened on, and a weight placed over the bung to keep it in its place. In about an hour the bung may be removed, in order to see whether the discharge of air continues. If it has ceased, or is considerably abated, three ounces more of vitriolic acid are to be added, and the air vessel returned to its former station in the cask; and, if the first parcel of calcareous earth and vitriolic acid be unequal to the sweetening of the lime water, they are to be removed, and a fresh quantity substituted in their place. During this.

this process, which, we are told, is generally completed in a few hours, the small plug is directed to be occasionally removed, in order to let out the part of the air which is not soluble in water.

After adding several cautions relative to the choice and preservation of the quick lime, the keeping the casks clean; and other circumstances necessary to be attended to in these processes, our author proceeds to describe a method of impregnating water in large quantities with fixed air. For this purpose a funnel similar to that used in Dr. Nooth's apparatus is to be cemented into the head of a cask. A bent tube is likewise to be introduced through another part of the head and properly cemented. One end of this tube is to reach within a few inches of the bottom of the cask, while the other extremity, by the intervention of a bladder, communicates with the lower part of Dr. Nooth's apparatus, containing the mixture of calcareous earth and vitriolic acid.

Mr. Henry's process for making artificial yeast consists in boiling flour and water to the consistence of treacle, and when the mixture is cold impregnating it with fixed air; after which it is to be placed in a degree of heat between 70° and 80° of Fahrenheit's thermometer, and

stirred twice or thrice in twenty-four hours, by which means, in about two days, such a degree of fermentation will have taken place, as to give the mixture the appearance of yeast. A quart of this yeast is directed to be mixed with six pounds of flour, kneaded with a sufficient quantity of water. The dough is afterwards to stand twelve hours, or till it appears to be sufficiently fermented, in a degree of warmth equal to that above-mentioned, and is then to be formed into loaves, and baked.

The author next describes processes for making artificial Pyrmont and Seltzer waters, which are similar to those mentioned by Sir T. Bergman (see our first volume, page 78). He likewise adds directions how to prepare Mr. Bewley's Julep, which is done by dissolving three drachms of fossil alkali in each quart of water, and throwing in streams of fixed air, till the alkaline taste is destroyed, and the water has acquired an agreeable pungency.

In a postscript to the work Mr. Henry endeavours to remove some objections that have been made to the practicability of his plan. The principal of these was suggested to him by Dr. Lind, who doubted, that in a rough sea the agitation of the ship would obstruct the process. In order to

to obviate this difficulty the author has described a mode of suspending the purifying cask in such a manner, that it may always retain its level, whatever be the motion of the ship.

2. *Edvardi Sandifort*, medicinæ, anatomes, et chirurgiæ, in academiâ Batava, quæ Leidæ est, professoris, Tabulæ intestini duodeni. 4to. Lugduni Batavorum, 1780.

These anatomical plates, which are five in number, are executed with great elegance and accuracy. The dissertation prefixed to them is divided into three chapters. In the first chapter the author gives a general description of the situation and course of the duodenum; in the second he describes the preparations from which the drawings for this work were made; and the third contains an explanation of the several figures.

3. *Dissertatio inauguralis de genesi materialium febres inflammatorias et lentas excitantium*; auctore *Philippo Adolpho Fries*, Nassovia Siegenensi, anatom. chirurg. artis obstetriciæ prof. publ. Monasteriensi, &c. 4to. Hardervici, 1780. p. 12.

4. *Dissertatio chemica de diversa phlogisti quantitate in metallis*, quam præside Mag. Torb. Bergman, chem. prof. &c. publice ventilandam

dam sistit *And. Nicol. Tunborg*, Dalecarlo. 4to. Upsaliæ, 1780. p. 16.

This ingenious dissertation is to be considered as the work of professor Bergman. From the experiments related in it, it appears, that of all the metallic substances platina abounds most with phlogiston; and that after platina the other metals rank, in this respect, in the following order, viz. gold, copper, cobalt, iron, manganese, zinc, nickel, antimony, tin, arsenic, silver, mercury, bismuth, and lead.

5. *Pharmacopœia Genevensis, ad usum Nosocomiorum.* Aucto-ribus *Dan. de la Roche, Ludov. Odier*, et *Carol. Dunant*, M. D. D. et Soc. Med. Edinens. Sociis. 8vo. Geneva, 1780. p. 193.

This is a judicious compilation from the best works of this kind that have been published of late in different parts of Europe.

6. *Nachricht von zwey neu entdeckten mitteln für schwangere und gebährende; i. e. An account of two remedies lately discovered for pregnant and lying-in-women.* 8vo. Berne, 1780. 109 pages.

This is the production of a dealer in nostrums.

7. *Vor schläge an Mütter welche ihre kinder selbst zu stillen gedenken, &c. i. e. Advice to those mothers who suckle their children.* By

Madame



*Madame le Rebours.* Translated from the French, with additional remarks, by J. E. S. 8vo. Basil, 1780.

A judicious performance. This translation was undertaken by Professor Simon, at the request of the *Philanthropical Society* at Strasburgh. The notes are by his friend Dr. Schweighæuser.

8. *Dissertatio medica inauguralis de morbis cutaneis.* Auctore Joh. Astbury. 8vo. Edin. 1781. p. 24.

9. *Tentamen medicum inaugurale de variola.* Auctore Joh. Ferriar. 8vo. Edin. 1781. p. 31.

10. *Dissertatio physica inauguralis de pubertate.* Auctore Tho. Miller. 8vo. Edin. 1781. p. 35.

11. *Dissertatio medica inauguralis de asthmate spasmodico.* Auctore Jacobo Fenwick. 8vo. Edin. 1781. p. 16.

12. *Tentamen physiologico-medicum inaugurale de perspirationis usu.* Auctore Gulielmo Graham. 8vo. Edin. 1781. p. 46.

13. *Tentamen medicum inaugurale de anasarca.* Auctore Joh. Pleasance. 8vo. Edin. 1781. p. 52.

14. *Disputatio medica inauguralis de epilepsia.* Auctore Joh. Waineman. 8vo. Edin. 1781. p. 25.

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15. Tentamen medicum inaugurale de epilepsia. Auctore Tipping Brown. 8vo. Edin. 1781. p. 52.

16. Dissertatio medica inauguralis de sale communi. Auctore Gulielm. Blackburne. 8vo. Edin. 1781. p. 36.

17. Tentamen medicum inaugurale de aëre, et imperio ejus in corpora humana. Auctore Edm. Cullen. 8vo. Edin. 1781. p. 45.

18. Disputatio medica inauguralis de dysenteria. Auctore Phil. Fletcher. 8vo. Edin. 1781.

19. Dissertatio medica inauguralis de colica Damnoniorum. Auctore Jac. Armistead. 8vo. Edin. 1781.

20. De la Philosophie; par M. *Beguin*, licencié en theologie, de la Société Royale de Navarre, ancien professeur de philosophie en l'université de Paris. Tome troisième, où il est traité du son, de la lumiere, de l'odeur, de la saveur, et de l'électricité des corps naturels. *i. e.* Of Philosophy; by M. *Beguin*, licentiate in divinity, of the R. S. of Navarre, formerly professor of philosophy in the university of Paris. Vol. III. in which are treated of, sound, light, smell, taste, and the electricity of natural bodies. 8vo. Paris, 1780, 431 pages with copper-plates.

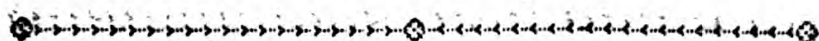
T H E  
LONDON MEDICAL JOURNAL,

For SEPTEMBER 1781.



SECTION I.

B O O K S.



- I. *Traſts on Inoculation, written and publiſhed at St. Peterſburg in the year 1768, by command of her imperial majeſty the empreſs of all the Ruſſias: with additional obſervations on epidemic ſmall pox, on the nature of that diſeaſe, and on the different ſucceſs of the various modes of inoculation. By the hon. Baron T. Dimſdale, phyſician and actual counſellor of ſtate to her imperial majeſty the empreſs of all the Ruſſias, and F. R. S. 8vo. Owen. London 1781. 249 pages.*

**T**HIS work is divided into ſeven chapters. In the firſt of theſe we have an account of the author's journey into Ruſſia, and of the introduction of inoculation into that country.

Vol. II. N<sup>o</sup> III.

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It

It seems that St. Petersburg, notwithstanding the greatest precautions are taken, is scarcely ever free from the small pox, which proves extremely destructive. The fatality of the disease in the case of a beautiful young lady belonging to the court alarmed the empress for her own and her son's safety, and induced her to send to England for a proper person who might inoculate herself and the grand duke, and introduce that salutary practice among her subjects.

In July 1768 our author was applied to for this purpose by Mr. Pouschin, the Russian minister, and sat out soon afterwards for St. Petersburg, accompanied by his son. On the day after his arrival he waited on the minister, Count Pannin, who with great good sense pointed out to him the importance of the office he was called to perform, and begged of him to weigh it properly before he engaged in it. He recommended it to him to be with her majesty and the grand duke as much as possible, in order to make his observations, and to study their constitutions, and concluded with this salutary admonition :  
 “ Let us not be too precipitate ; but when every  
 “ circumstance has been duly attended to, re-  
 “ port your opinion freely, and depend on this,  
 “ that if you should deem the operation hazard-  
 “ ous and advise against it, we shall think our-  
 “ selves

“ selves equally obliged to you, nor will the ac-  
 “ knowledgments, on account of this expedi-  
 “ tion, be inferior to what it will be upon the  
 “ utmost success.”——Soon after this our author  
 and his son were introduced to the empress and  
 grand duke, with each of whom they had the  
 honour to dine.

Although our author was prepared to expect  
 much from the excellent understanding and po-  
 liteness of her majesty, yet her extreme penetra-  
 tion, and the propriety of the questions she asked  
 concerning the practice and success of inocula-  
 tion greatly surprized him. In a conversation  
 with this princess relative to her intended inocu-  
 lation, he requested the assistance of the court  
 physicians; but to this she objected: “ It is im-  
 “ possible,” said she, “ that my physicians can  
 “ have much skill in this operation—their inter-  
 “ position may only tend to embarrass you—my  
 “ life is my own, and I shall with the utmost  
 “ confidence rely on your care alone.—With re-  
 “ gard to my constitution, you could receive no  
 “ information from them.—I have had so good  
 “ a share of health that their advice has never  
 “ been required.” Upon his proposing that  
 some experiments might first be made by inocu-  
 lating some of her own sex, and age, and as near  
 as could be similar habit; the empress replied,

“ that if the practice had been novel, or the  
 “ least doubt of the general success had remain-  
 “ ed, that precaution might be necessary ; but  
 “ as she was well satisfied in both particulars,  
 “ there would be no occasion for delay on any  
 “ account.”

Two young cadets, who were supposed not to have had the small pox, were first inoculated by the author's son. As every body was anxious for the success of this first attempt, a journal of every material appearance was transmitted to the author twice a day, and translated for the empress's perusal. These reports were so unfavourable that on the sixth day he had determined to go himself to assist in taking care of these patients, but he was first commanded to attend on the empress. The author mentions her conversation at this interview : “ She received me,” says he, “ in so engaging a manner, and animated me so much by the encouragement she gave me, that I cannot forbear to relate what passed on this occasion. She said, ‘ I do not like to see you so unhappy, tell me what is the matter.’ I answered, ‘ that the unfavourable accounts received of the patients at Wolf House, distressed me greatly. I am sorry for it too,’ she replied ; ‘ but tell me truly, are you  
 ‘ cer-



‘ certain that the cadet’s fever is not occasioned  
 ‘ by inoculation? Most assuredly not. Then,’  
 said she, ‘ dismiss your fears—whatever may be  
 ‘ the event, it shall not alter my resolution—  
 ‘ you shall perform the operation on me, and  
 ‘ my example will tend to re-establish the  
 ‘ practice.’—The evening’s report was more  
 favourable: two or three pustules appeared on  
 one of the patients, and the other arm remained  
 well, with such an appearance as indicated his  
 having had the small pox before.

While his son was employed with the two  
 cadets, our author was making himself acquaint-  
 ed with the constitutions of his illustrious pa-  
 tients, and for that purpose paid his duty to the  
 empress once or twice every day, generally  
 dining and passing great part of the day with  
 the grand duke. At length the time for the ino-  
 culation of both was finally determined on. That  
 of the grand duke was publicly talked of, but  
 as nothing was said respecting the empress’s ino-  
 culation, every one believed that she had laid  
 aside all thoughts of it.

Matters were in this situation when our author  
 went to assist in the inoculation of four more  
 cadets. The natural small pox in a suitable state  
 for the purpose was discovered in the suburbs of  
 the

the city. An opinion prevails in Russia, that altho' the operation may be salutary to the inoculated, yet it produces certain death to the person from whom the matter is taken. For this reason the family received him with horror in their countenances. He found the patient with a favourable kind of small pox, gasping for breath, from the very great heat of the room, it being the commonly received idea, that it is impossible to keep such patients too hot. After some arguments and the interference of her husband, the mother of the child consented that the matter should be taken.

The progress of the infection in these new patients was by no means favourable. The appearance on the arms was different from what our author had ever experienced; for on the punctured part almost immediately arose a pimple, which soon became one large pustule, filled with matter, very much resembling the small pox, completely matured. This continued to the 7th or 8th day, when the eruptive symptoms might in the common course have been expected. This second experiment, therefore, turned out wholly ineffectual, as the wounds dried up, and the patients continued in perfect health. "Happily," remarks the author, "I had the good  
" for-

“ fortune to be employed in the service of a princess, whose superior understanding and fortitude had prepared her for every event.”——

In a memorial presented to the empress he freely acknowledged, that the whole process had been conducted according to his own directions, and that he could account for its failure in no other manner than by supposing, that all of them had really passed through the natural small pox in some early period of their lives; and, in order to be satisfied in this point, he proposed that they should be inoculated a second time, in the old manner, by a long incision, as practised by Dr. Schülenius, a physician at St. Petersburg, who had assisted in these experiments. This proposal being approved by the empress, was carried into execution, and the result was, that not the least symptom of infection was produced: but her imperial majesty being already fixed in her resolution did not wait the issue of this second trial, but was inoculated privately in each arm on the 12th of October. This important process and the inoculation of the grand duke are the subjects of two distinct tracts.——

On the 14th of October certain signs of infection appeared in the places of incision. On the 18th she was attacked with symptoms of the eruptive fever,

fever, which continued till the 21st, when some pustules appeared on her face and arms. On the 23d she complained of a soreness in her throat, which was occasioned by a large pustule on the upper part of the right tonsil. On the 28th of the same month she returned from Czars-coe Selo to St. Petersburg in perfect health.

The inoculation of the grand duke, which had been postponed for a short time, on account of his being seized with the chicken pox, was now resumed. In a memorial, reprinted in this collection, the author gives his remarks on the constitution of his imperial highness (who appears to have been of a delicate habit, with glandular swellings in his throat and one of his cheeks) and the method of conducting the inoculation, which was performed on the 30th of October. The symptoms of eruptive fever came on November 6, and on the 9th pustules were discovered on the skin and back. His highness was incommoded with a sore throat from a large pustule above the *velum pendulum palati*; but the whole number of pustules did not exceed forty, and on the 22d of November he was perfectly recovered.

Immediately after the recovery of the grand duke our author was informed of the honourable  
and

and generous manner in which her imperial majesty proposed to reward his services. He was created a baron of the Russian empire, with an annuity for life of five hundred pounds, to be paid him in England, besides ten thousand pounds sterling, which he immediately received, together with the miniature pictures of the empress and grand duke. To this must be added a thousand pounds paid to him by M. Pouschin previous to his departure from London, towards defraying the expences of his journey. His son was likewise honoured with the same title of baron, and presented with a gold snuff-box richly set with diamonds.

The example of these illustrious personages had such immediate influence that most of the nobility were impatient to have their families inoculated. For this purpose our author and his son were engaged to visit Moscow. In order to be certain of a supply of matter they took with them a child, whom they inoculated previous to their departure from St. Peterburgh. As they experienced some delay in their journey, the eruption of the small pox appeared while they were on the road. After being engaged in inoculation for two months, Baron Dimisdale proposed returning to St. Peterburgh, but was de-

tained some time by a dangerous illness, which reduced him greatly.

Just as he was setting out from Russia, on his return to England, he was called to the empress, who was attacked with a pleuretic fever, and wished to have his assistance. He therefore again took up his residence in the palace. The state of her pulse indicated bleeding, and eight ounces of blood were directed to be taken away, but Monsieur Rousselin, her surgeon, refused to bleed her, representing that as she was then in a sweat, the taking away blood would interrupt the perspiration, and be attended with danger. This is not the only instance of opposition which our author appears to have experienced from the medical gentlemen at the court of St. Petersburg. His advice, however, was followed, the empress experienced immediate relief, and in about three weeks was perfectly recovered. After taking his leave, and receiving fresh proofs of the munificence of her imperial majesty, Baron Dimsdale was attended to Riga by an officer commissioned to see that every necessary accommodation should be provided for him in the same manner as at his first arrival in the country.

After this narrative follows a short account of the regulations in the medical college of St. Petersburg in 1768, from which it appears that  
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every physician and surgeon must undergo an examination by the college before he can have liberty to practise in the empire. Until such liberty is announced in the public papers, he can have no medicines from the imperial shop, nor dare any apothecary receive his prescription or supply him with medicines. Formerly there was no other than the imperial shop, the whole expenditure and receipt of which is vested in the crown; but by degrees it has been found convenient to permit the establishment of free laboratories and apothecaries shops at St. Petersburg and Moscow, and they begin also to be established in other principal cities of the empire; but all those persons who have the privilege to keep them, produce satisfactory proofs of their ability and integrity, and comply with certain requisitions before they are licensed. In all these shops the prices of medicines are regulated by the college.

The next tract is intitled, “ A Description of the method proposed for extending the salutary practice of Inoculation through the Russian empire.”—The author recommends a general inoculation in every town or village once in five or six years; the providing a separate place of abode for such as are deemed improper

objects, and a proper house and other conveniences for those who may chance to have the disease severely. He cautions his readers against illiterate and ignorant inoculators, and mentions several instances of mal-practice. Amongst others he speaks of a man, who, upon the credit of having been his coachman, commenced inoculator, and did some mischief; and of another person, a farmer near Hertford, who inoculated a great number of persons, and gave out, that the inoculated small pox was not catching; but the whole neighbourhood became infected and many died.

This paper is followed by a short estimate of the number of those who die of the natural small pox, founded chiefly on the London bills of mortality; from which he concludes, that in general the small pox carries off the 8th part of those who die in London under two years old. He is credibly informed, that in Russia one half die of all that are attacked with this disease, the ravages of which in that empire he computes at two millions annually. His mind was deeply impressed with its fatality on his going to a village near St. Peterburgh, to inquire for matter for inoculation, and finding that of thirty-seven persons attacked with it two only had survived.

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The second chapter contains additional observations to a Treatise on Inoculation, formerly published by the author. He now objects less to inoculation in early infancy, but considers children with heads remarkably large as exceptionable subjects. In two instances of this sort he has seen the eruptive fever attended with a stupor, which in one of the patients proved fatal. He now thinks preparation, and restriction in diet, previous to the inoculation, may be dispensed with. To persons of very delicate habits, he has even allowed light animal food, with a glass or two of wine at dinner, during the whole time previous to the eruptive fever.

At the end of his chapter on preparation, in his former treatise, he has mentioned an instance of a child born nine weeks after inoculation, at the full time, with distinct marks of the disease, though the mother had very few eruptions. He has since seen instances in which two pregnant women were inoculated, and each had a plentiful eruption of small pox : three or four years afterwards he inoculated the children, and both had a tolerable number of pustules. Altho' of many pregnant women whom he has inoculated not one miscarried during the disease, yet he has known miscarriages to happen in a short time after

after their recovery; he therefore thinks it unadvisable to inoculate women in that state, unless the necessity of the case requires it.

Cool air and evacuations, though necessary when the eruptive fever runs high, may, in the opinion of our author, be dispensed with when the complaints are moderate, and the patient delicate. When the eruption is completed, he thinks a very cold regimen may be hurtful. If the pustules are numerous, he advises confinement to a chamber for ease. He has seen a sudden transition from a warm, close room to a cool, airy one prove very dangerous to the patient. Extremes therefore are to be cautiously avoided.

If the eruption is large; if the fever remains in any considerable degree after the eruption, and the skin feels stretched and painful, but more especially if the throat be sore, he recommends a blister of the size of an English crown-piece to be applied upon the very place of the arm where the incision was made, and suffered to remain on about twelve hours. This application, we are told, will almost infallibly produce both speedy and considerable relief; nor does it hinder the sore from healing, as some might expect, for when both arms have been  
inocu-

inoculated, the blistered incision has most commonly healed sooner than the other. When the inoculated part inflames considerably, so as to occasion great restlessness and fever, as happens particularly in young children, a common cataplasm of bread and milk is said to give relief.

In addition to what he had formerly said of anomalous symptoms, the author observes, that sometimes a patient, who has passed through the eruptive fever, with moderate symptoms, has been unexpectedly attacked with restlessness and an alarming degree of fever, and very frequently, in children, with uncommon fits of crying. For a time he was unable to explain these symptoms, but he is now convinced they originate from pustules situated in the internal parts of the mouth, or of the nose or œsophagus. The great duke's case was of this kind. He has always treated this complaint successfully, by producing a slight perspiration, by which means the whole disturbance has commonly been over in twenty-four hours.

In the third chapter the author treats of epidemic small pox. He considers the variolous matter as a poison, *sui generis*, the operation of which most of the human species are liable to

to experience once in their lives, but very rarely twice. He does not believe that the state of the air ever generates the small pox, unless aided by contagion; neither will he allow that the small pox returns epidemically at certain periods, but he believes that certain seasons and constitutions of the air are more favourable than others to propagate the distemper. As proofs that it is not generated by any peculiar state of the air, he observes, that it was unknown in America till conveyed thither by Europeans about 200 years ago; that in some of the northern parts of Europe it has not made its appearance above 70 or 80 years; that no traces of it were to be found in Siberia until the Russians carried it thither; that some parts of Tartary are still free from it; and that the Island of St. Helena remains also to this day uninfected, and its inhabitants, who justly dread the introduction of the disease, use every precaution to prevent it.

In his fourth chapter, the author gives some observations in favour of the opinion, that the small pox attacks the same person but once. He remarks, that the diseases which have been most frequently taken for small pox are swine and chicken pox. These two are generally supposed to be the same, but from a case related  
of



of a child who underwent them both, they appear to be distinct disorders. The Baron relates several instances where the matter of the swine or chicken pox has by mistake been used in inoculation instead of the small pox. He declares, that in a practice of more than forty-six years, he has not met with a single instance of any persons having the small pox twice.

He takes occasion to notice a remarkable fact related by Mr. Mudge, in a late publication, and which is briefly as follows: of forty persons inoculated at Plymouth, thirty were inoculated with crude matter taken from the arm of a woman five days after she herself had been inoculated with concocted matter; the other ten were inoculated with concocted matter of the natural small pox. The arms of all the forty seemed to have taken the infection, yet only the latter ten had the eruptive fever and small pox in the usual way. The other thirty having been afterwards inoculated again with concocted matter had the disease in the usual manner. Our author supposes, that in this case the failures arose from too precipitately forming an opinion, that an inflammation, and a sore with punctured matter on the punctured part, would certainly convey the disease, without considering so accurately as

was necessary, whether such inflammation and sore were truly of a variolous nature, which, in the instance just now mentioned, he thinks was not the case, and consequently that the inoculation of the thirty patients having been performed from a discharge not impregnated with the variolous poison, the small pox could not be produced.

The Baron observes, that once in his life he has succeeded in procuring sufficient infection for inoculation so early as the 4th day, but that in general it is very rarely to be procured even on the fifth, although on the 8th, 9th, and 10th it is common. Not a single instance has occurred to him where he could have inoculated four persons from the arm of any one patient on the fifth day, so that, of course, if he had seen, as in Mr. Mudge's patient, inflammation and discharge enough to inoculate thirty at so early a period, he should have attributed it to some constitutional appearance, and have thought it unfit for conveying the small pox. He is still persuaded, that provided due care has been taken to procure infection from true small pox, and the progress in consequence of it, in the inoculated person, has been agreeable to what is usually observed in inoculated patients, the  
crude

crude matter will be equally efficacious with that which has been more concocted. He observes, that if the inoculation be performed with fluid matter, no constitution of the air or body can resist its operation; but that if the matter is diluted with a small proportion of water, it is usually slower in producing the disease.

In the following chapter the author endeavours to prove that some persons pass through life without appearing to be capable of receiving the small pox. That every person is liable to receive this infection once, has been a generally received opinion; but as some persons have passed thro' a long life, without taking the disease, although frequently in the way of infection; and as others have been repeatedly inoculated, and afterwards intentionally exposed to the worst kind of natural small pox, without any appearance of disease being produced, the conclusion will be warranted, that some are so constitutionally framed, as not to be subject to this distemper in any degree.

Instances of adults, upon whom repeated inoculations have produced no effect, would not readily be admitted as proofs of this position; for to such it might be objected, that

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they

they had passed through the disease in a slight manner in some early period of their lives. Baron Dimisdale therefore offers no other evidence than that of infants. He relates three instances of children, in the earliest state of infancy, who shewed not the least signs of receiving the variolous infection, though repeatedly inoculated and exposed to the natural small pox.

In the sixth chapter our author communicates an important and interesting discovery, which is, that although a person, who has never had the small pox, has continued to reside in an infected apartment so long, that there must be the highest probability of the infection being taken, yet even under these alarming circumstances, if inoculation is performed, he shall have the distemper from the inoculation only, with every advantage arising from it; and the natural infection shall be, as it were, superseded. Several cases are related in proof of this position. Baron Dimisdale supposes the cause of this singular circumstance is, that the natural and inoculated diseases take place after different periods of infection. It is well known, that inoculated patients usually begin to complain on the 8th, 9th, or 10th day; the exact time of receiving the natural infection is unknown, yet from accounts

counts well authenticated, and from his own experience, our author is inclined to think that from 13 to 20 days, or more, usually intervene before the commencement of the eruptive fever.

Inoculation sometimes failed when practised in the old manner; this might be owing to the dry state of the matter inserted, and the dressings applied over it; whereas in the present method, the matter is generally fresh, or if a few days old, and dry, it is moistened by steam, or with a little warm water just sufficient for the purpose of dilution; and therefore Baron Dimisdale maintains, that the success of this new method is infallible, provided the patient is capable of receiving infection, so that if no infection appears on the first trial, no future inoculation will succeed.

Dr. Archer, physician to the Small Pox Hospital, has observed, that persons supposed to have the small pox are frequently sent there, in whom the eruption proves to be of some other kind. In such cases compassion to patients brought into a house loaded with infection induces him to suffer them to remain there until the real disease appears; and he finds that patients thus circumstanced, almost constantly have the small pox in a favourable manner. Our author ascribes this  
to

to their receiving the infection by cutaneous absorption, as every part of the furniture is certainly in a high state of infection, and the infection by contact, as well as by inoculation, being quicker in its operation, supercedes the progress of infection taken in any other manner.

The seventh and last chapter contains conjectures on the probable causes of the different kinds and degrees of natural small pox, and on the different success of the methods adopted in the practice of Inoculation.

The author sets out with observing, that but little dependence can be placed on good health and regularity of diet as a security against a dangerous kind of small pox, the most luxurious and irregular livers being frequently observed to have it in the mildest manner, while children in early infancy, and delicate and abstemious females, who might be supposed to be in a perpetual state of preparation, often fall victims to its malignity. He therefore supposes, that some are so constitutionally formed as to receive the small pox in a milder or more violent degree.

When the poison of the small pox is absorbed, as in inoculation, he supposes, that the quantity of poison generated is small; that the organs first affected are not of the vital kind,  
and



and that in these, probably, part of the virulence is exhausted; whereas in bad cases of natural small pox a greater quantity of the infection has been received internally, and produces an universal and dangerous disease.—From a dissection at which he was present some years ago, at St. Thomas's Hospital, he is of opinion, that in bad confluent kinds the internal parts are covered with pustules.

Towards the close of the work the author points out the inconveniences of the old method contrasted with the advantages of the new one; “of which,” says he, with great candour, “I shall now, as indeed I have done at all times and on every occasion, give the whole merit to the family of the SUTTONS.” The essential difference, he observes, consisted in returning to the original method of a slight puncture and the use of recent fluid matter, without applying a dressing of any kind to the part, and enjoining the use of cold air and cold drink. In the old practice a greater quantity of matter was used, and as a large ulcerated surface was produced, the absorption would of course be greater. The present method is free from this inconvenience.

It may be suggested perhaps by some readers, that the author has not given due credit to the  
in-

influence of the open air and cold water. He acknowledges their utility in *some* cases, but he is far from being convinced of their efficacy in every case. His practice in Russia undeceived him on this head; for during the severity of a Russian winter it would have been an unpardonable rashness to have ordered patients into the open air, or indeed to have enjoined them to reside in unwarmed apartments; so that he directed the regulation of the rooms to a temperate heat by the thermometer, and this method succeeded to his satisfaction.

We have thus given a summary view of a performance which we have perused with singular satisfaction. Exclusive of many pleasing anecdotes, related in a manner that does honour to the candour and good sense of the noble author, it abounds with new and important observations, which cannot but render it a valuable acquisition to the medical reader.

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II. *Miscellaneous surgical Essays.* By J. L. Schmucker. (Continued from page 116).

XXV. *AN account of an inveterate lues venerea,* by Mr. Muller.—The principal complaint in this case was a caries of the cranium.  
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The diseased portion of bone was removed by four applications of the trepan. In about a fortnight after the operation the patient began to take the bark, to which mercury was afterwards added, and by these means he recovered.

XXVI. *Case of a violent concussion of the brain, by Mr. Klemann.*—In this patient the symptoms that commonly attend cases of this sort were accompanied with a violent delirium, which had continued twenty-seven days, when our author resolved to cover the whole head with a blister. The good effects of this application were soon perceptible, and the patient got well.

XXVII. *Case of a concussion of the brain, by Mr. Creuzwieser.*—In this case after repeated bleedings, glysters, blisters, and cold applications to the head had proved ineffectual, recourse was had to emetic tartar. Fifteen grains of it proved of no use, but when twenty-five grains of it were administered, a violent mucous vomiting was excited, which immediately relieved the patient, who afterwards recovered.

XXVIII. *Of the cure of a large swelling of the thyroid gland, by Mr. Sellie.*—In this case the tumour was gradually consumed by suppuration.

XXIX. *A case of hernia, by Mr. Weidele.*—The scrotum, intestine, testicle, and spermatic

chord, in this case, were mortified. All these parts were separated by the knife, and the author had the satisfaction to see his patient recover; but the fœces continued to pass through the wound.

XXX. *An account of a singular spasmodic affection of the stomach, by Mr. Hemann.*—The complaint here spoken of, after resisting a variety of remedies, was at length relieved by the patient's drinking a glass of cold water every morning.

XXXI. *A case of ischuria, by Mr. Hagen.*—The patient whose case is here described was in the fourth month of her pregnancy, and the ischuria was occasioned by a falling down of the upper part of the vagina. The prolapsus however gradually disappeared as the uterus increased in bulk, and the patient suffered no other inconvenience than that of being obliged to submit occasionally to the introduction of a catheter.

XXXII. *A case of hernia attended with a singular circumstance, by Mr. Lange.*—The patient who is the subject of this paper voided his fœces through a wound which remained after a strangulated hernia that had mortified, and nearly proved fatal. By carrying a heavy burthen a considerable portion of intestine was forced through this opening, and could not possibly be reduced with-

without dilating this artificial anus. This was accordingly done, and the gut was then easily restored to its natural situation, a considerable quantity of blood being discharged from its inner coat during the operation.

XXXIII. *Of a venereal ulcer, by the same.*—

We have here an account of a painful ulcer of the cheek, that had destroyed almost the whole of the parotid gland before it was suspected to be owing to a venereal taint. The excretory duct of the gland being eroded, the saliva was to be seen trickling from different parts of the wound. In this state Mr. Lange administered a solution of sublimate internally, and applied red precipitate to the ulcer. These remedies produced the desired effect. The saliva continued for some time to be discharged through a fistulous opening, but this was at length healed by touching it with *lapis infernalis*, and applying compresses to it according to the method recommended by M. Louis.

XXXIV. *An account of a venereal palsy of the arm, by the same.*—The cure of this patient was effected by giving the sublimate, camphor, and a decoction of saffrafras internally, and applying at the same time *linimentum saponaceum* to the diseased arm.

XXXV. *An account of the extirpation of a polypus from the rectum, by the same.*—This was done by means of a ligature. The polypus, which was about the size of a walnut, separated in six days without pain.

XXXVI. *Of the fatal effects of an immoderate use of brandy, by Mr. Völker.*—The effects produced in this case were indigestion, loss of appetite, vomiting after eating, obstinate costiveness, pain under the short ribs, anxiety, and at last death. Upon dissection the liver was found hard and considerably enlarged, the stomach nearly of a cartilaginous consistence and greatly contracted, and the mesenteric glands indurated.

XXXVII. *Case of an aneurism of the pulmonary artery, by Mr. Eifenschmidt.*—At first this disease was attended only with dyspnoea, but after a time the third and fourth true ribs were elevated, and at length the patient was suddenly suffocated. Upon dissection the aneurismal sac was found to contain three pounds of blood and the two ribs were carious.

XXXVIII. *Case of a gun-shot wound of the throat, by Mr. Rüdiger.*—In this case the ball passed obliquely in under the left side of the cricoid cartilage, lacerated the membranous part of the aspera arteria, and came out between the mastoid pro-



process and the upper jaw. The patient was unable to swallow for some days after the accident, so that probably the œsophagus also was wounded. At first, though he coughed up a considerable quantity of blood, and afterwards blood mixed with pus, but at length the wound healed and the patient recovered.

XXXIX. *Case of a luxation of the os femoris, by Mr. Sonderhof.*—In this case the bone was dislocated upwards, and reduced on the nineteenth day after the accident.

XL. *Case of a luxation of the os humeri, by Mr. Schmücker.*—In this patient the bone had been dislocated upwards of three months, when the reduction was attempted by our author. The extension was made slowly and by intervals, in order to give the contracted muscles time to elongate, and in about three quarters of an hour this method had the desired success.

XLI. *An account of a case in which the intestine was perforated by a worm, by Mr. Luducke.*—The death of this patient was preceded by jaundice, hectic fever, and a painful swelling in the right hypochondrium. Upon dissection the thoracic and abdominal viscera were found greatly diseased, and the colon perforated by a worm.

XLII.

XLII. *An account of an hydrocele of the tunica vaginalis successfully treated, by Mr. Schwindt.*—

The cure in this case is said to have been effected by repeatedly exposing the scrotum to the vapour of vinegar, and afterwards applying to it compresses moistened with the same liquor. The scrotum was suspended by a bag truss, and in a few days the swelling entirely disappeared. The complaint returned four times, but was always removed by the same method, and the patient, we are told, has since remained perfectly free from it.

XLIII. *An account of an inveterate fistula, by Mr. Seeliger.*—This fistula is the consequence of a gun-shot wound of twenty years standing. The ball passed in an oblique direction between the muscles of the abdomen and peritonæum from the left groin to the os ilii. The patient enjoyed a tolerable state of health, while the discharge from the wound continued, but at times this discharge is suspended, and then he is constantly troubled with a variety of distressing symptoms till it is restored again, which generally happens in a few days, the paroxysm terminating in a critical discharge by sweat and urine. These symptoms are attributed by Mr. Seeliger to an absorption of the pus. He observes

serves likewise that the patient has a constant exudation of an acrid humour through the skin of the anus, which seems to have a salutary effect.

XLIV. *An account of the efficacy of the semina sabadillæ as a cure for the tænia, by the same.*—

In a case of this sort our author succeeded in the cure by means of this medicine after every other remedy had proved ineffectual. He gave half a drachm of the seeds in powder, mixed with honey, every morning, and every fifth day administered a drastic purge. In fourteen days the worm was completely expelled. Mr. Seeliger adds, that he has likewise found the powder of these seeds very efficacious in destroying bugs in household furniture.

XLV. *Case of a gun-shot wound in the head, by Mr. Rüdiger.*—In this patient part of the outer table of the os frontis was carried away, and the inner table depressed by the ball. At first no particular symptoms were excited, and our author contented himself with the use of cold applications to the wound; but at the end of a fortnight the patient began to complain of pain in his head and other symptoms, which indicated the use of the trepan. The instrument was applied in three places. The dura mater ap-

appeared much inflamed, and under it a fluctuation was perceptible. On puncturing this membrane, pus and coagulated blood were discharged, and the patient found himself somewhat relieved, but two days after died lethargic. On dissection the vessels of the dura mater were found præternaturally distended with blood, and under this membrane was a great quantity of pus, a considerable portion of the brain having suppurated.

XLVI. *Case of a gun-shot wound, by Mr. Otto.*

—In this case a slight fissure was discovered in the left parietal bone, and a small part of the bone was depressed. On the fifth day after the accident the patient complained of an acute pain in the head, and the trepan was applied in two places. The depressed fracture and several other pieces of the bone being by this means removed, the patient found himself better; but on the seventh day the head-ach returned again. On the 23d the pulse quickened, the patient became comatous, and the wound assumed an unfavourable aspect. Shortly after this the patient died, and upon dissection the brain and its membranes were found in a state of suppuration.

XLVII. *A case*

XLVII. *A case of hernia humoralis, by Mr. Gros.*—This complaint was the consequence of a dysentery. A fluctuation being felt in the testicle, an incision was made into the scrotum, and the matter evacuated. Upon examination the testicle itself appeared to be sound, but its tunica vaginalis was in a diseased state. This case, and we could add to it another similar one from our own observation, seems to prove, that in a hernia humoralis the tunica vaginalis, and not the testis, is the seat of the disease.

XLVIII. *An account of a cancerous tumor successfully extirpated, by Mr. Schwindt.*—The tumor here spoken of was situated under the left cheek. It was very hard, and discharged an acrid stinking ichor.

XLIX. *An account of a gun-shot wound in the arm, by Mr. Sonderhof.*—This case proved fatal, which might probably be owing to the neglect of amputation in the beginning.

L. *An account of a large steatomatous tumour, by Mr. Devrient.*—This tumour was situated on the inside of the thigh. A fluctuation being felt in it, it was opened, and found to contain an ichorous matter. The patient died consumptive, and upon examination the sac was found to extend under the femoral artery.

LI. *An account of a total defect of the uterus and vagina, by Mr. Meyer.*—This observation was made in a dead subject. No appearance of a vagina or uterus was to be found; in their stead there was only a loose cellular membrane that arose from the peritonæum. The ovaria were nearly in a natural state; the labia and clitoris small; and the nymphæ wholly deficient.

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III. *Memoirs of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris. (Continued from page 110.)*

VI. *THIRD memoir on the gritt stones of Fontainebleau, or an analysis of those stones, and particularly of chrySTALLIZED gritts, by M. de Laffone.*

VII. *Experiments on the ashes employed by the manufacturers of salt petre at Paris; with remarks on their use, by M. Lavoisier.*—These people it seems make use of ashes deprived of their vegetable alkali by repeated washing. M. Lavoisier examines the reason why these ashes are preferred to potash, and he finds it is because they contain a small portion of muriatic salt.

VIII. *Expe-*



VIII. *Experiments on animal respiration, and on the changes produced in the air by its passage through the lungs, by the same.*—Of all the phenomena of the animal œconomy, there are none more deserving the attention of physiologists, than those which accompany respiration. Dr. Priestley has observed, that this process has the property of phlogisticating air in the same manner as the calcination of metals and other chemical processes do; and that it ceases to be fit for respiration when furcharged or saturated with phlogiston. The author of the paper before us is of opinion, that in respiration while one portion of the vital air, as he terms it, is absorbed by the lungs, another portion is converted into fixed air, or what, in imitation of the late M. Bucquet, he calls chalky aeriform acid (*acide crayeux aeriforme*). He has been led to this opinion by the following observations:—1. In calcining mercury in a given portion of atmospheric air fit for respiration, part of this air unites with the mercury, and the remainder ceases to be fit either for respiration or combustion. It no longer diminishes with nitrous acid, but it does not render lime water turbid. If by a violent heat the air is again separated from the calcined mercury, it restores to the other air all its properties.

perties. —2. If an animal dies under the receiver of an air pump, the air contained in the vessel is rendered unfit for combustion. It does not diminish with nitrous acid, but it decomposes lime water; an essential difference this between this residuum and that produced by the calcination of mercury.—3. If caustic alkali is placed in this air, part of the alkali loses its causticity, and absorbs a portion of the air. This new residuum of air deprived by animal respiration of the vital air it contained, and by caustic alkali of its fixed air, is in no respect different from the air that remains after the calcination of mercury, and the addition of air disengaged from the mercury is sufficient to render it fit for animal life. Hence our author concludes, that while the calcination of mercury seems to affect atmospherical air merely by separating from it its vital air, or in other words, that portion of it which is essential to life, respiration seems, besides this same effect, to generate in the atmospherical air a portion of fixed air.

IX. *Observations on the combustion of candles in atmospherical air, and in air eminently respirable, by the same.*—By air eminently respirable, our author means that which Dr. Priestley (in his opinion) improperly terms dephlogisticated air.

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He supposes the air we breathe to be composed of about one fourth of this pure air, and that the remaining three fourths are a mephitic air, the nature of which is as yet wholly unknown, but which is unequal to the support of animal life, or of combustion.

He concludes from his experiments, 1st, That this mephitic portion of atmospherical air does not in any degree contribute to the phenomena of combustion. 2dly, That combustion acts only on the portion of air eminently respirable. 3dly, That two-fifths of this pure air are converted into fixed air by the burning of candles, and that the remaining three-fifths unite with the mephitic portion in such a manner as to be inseparable by combustion. 4thly, That phosphorus has much greater combustible powers than candles, since it is able to exhaust four-fifths of the pure air contained in atmospherical air. 5thly, That pyrophorus is still more powerful in this respect, being able to exhaust almost the whole of the pure part.

In a future paper the author engages to prove the existence of the matter of fire in all aeriform fluids, and to shew how fixed air may be formed by combining inflammable air with the basis of air eminently respirable.

X. Re-

X. *Remarks on the necessity of performing the Cæfarean operation on women who die in advanced pregnancy, and on the means of restoring their children to life when apparently dead, by M. Bordenave.*—

There are not wanting instances to prove, that the *fœtus in utero* oftentimes survives its mother when she dies during pregnancy, and of course may be sometimes saved by the Cæfarean section. Cangiamila, in his *Embryologia Sacra*, has collected a great number of instances in which it was performed with success. He observes, that in Montreal and its neighbourhood, in the space of about 24 years, 21 children had been preserved in this manner; that from 1704 to 1748, of 60 children taken out in this way at Caltanissetta only five died, and at Victoria in the diocese of Syracuse twenty, all of whom lived. To these facts from Cangiamila our author adds one of the same kind, communicated to him from the neighbourhood of Mont de Marfan. A woman in her sixth month died at one o'clock in the afternoon, and was opened at seven in the evening. The child was restored and lived upwards of two hours. Cangiamila speaks of five instances in which the lives of the children were preserved though the operation was performed 15, 23, 24, and even more hours after the death of the mother.

ther. In these cases M. Bordenave recommends the usual methods of recovery, and amongst others the bathing the child in an aromatic decoction and the sprinkling it with cold water.

XI. *An account of an aeriform substance that proceeds from the human body, and on the means of collecting it, by Count de Milly.*

XII. *Second Memoir on the same subject, by the same.*

Our author, while in the warm bath, perceived small bubbles of air forming on different parts of his body and rising to the surface of the water. He collected a small quantity of this air, which he examined with M. Lavoisier, and they found that it extinguished flame and rendered lime water turbid.

XIII. *Experiments to prove that the acid of phosphorus procured, according to Mr. Scheele's method, from calcined bones, is not a pure acid, by M. Sage.*—By employing Mr. Scheele's process for procuring the phosphoric acid, that acid is not obtained pure, but in the form of a vitreous mass which is insoluble in water. This substance when distilled with charcoal yields phosphorus, and the proportion of phosphoric acid formed, is found to be about a fourth part of the vitreous mass. M. Sage has not yet been able to determine

mine precisely what the substance is, which by uniting with the acid gives it the vitreous appearance, or to ascertain whether this matter is a real glass or a saline substance.

XIV. *Observations on the solution of mercury in vitriolic acid, and on the resolution of this acid into aeriform sulphureous acid and air eminently respirable, by Mr. Lavoisier.*—According to this writer sulphur is vitriolic acid deprived of vital air, which is one of its principles. When a solution of mercury in vitriolic acid is distilled, it yields an acid resembling fixed air, after this, air eminently respirable rises, and then the mercury resumes its original form.

XV. *Experiments on the combination of alum with combustible substances, and on the changes produced in the air by the burning of pyrophorus, by the same.*—We know that pyrophorus is a kind of liver of sulphur, which has the property of inflaming spontaneously in the open air. By burning it in close vessels filled with common air M. Lavoisier found that it burned till it had absorbed somewhat more than a fourth part of the common air. The remainder of the air evidently contained fixed air. By burning pyrophorus in air eminently respirable it destroyed about six-sevenths. He observes, that if the fixed air  
which



which this residuum contains is separated, by passing it through water, we procure a new and very pure air in which pyrophorus will burn, and that by repeating this operation he has been able to combine with the pyrophorus the whole of the vital air, to within about 144th part. The pyrophorus had increased in weight by burning, and was no longer a *hepar sulphuris*; but was of a white colour, and had the astringency and all the other properties of alum.

XVI. *Remarks on the vitriolization of martial pyrites, by the same.* Martial pyrites are a combination of iron and sulphur. Distilled in their natural state they yield sulphur; but they undergo a change when exposed to the air, and if washed after this yield *vitriolum martis*. M. Lavoisier has endeavoured to ascertain how the air acts in their decomposition, and finds that it is by the pyrites absorbing that part of the vital air contained in the atmospherical air employed in the operation.

XVII. *Of the combination of the matter of fire with evaporable fluids, and of the formation of elastic aeriform fluids, by the same.* It has long been known that evaporation produces cold. M. Lavoisier finds by experiments, that this effect takes place when the fluid is evaporated in

*vacuo*. He supposes, that the matter of fire exists in bodies in two different states, being either free, and serving to dissolve bodies, or at least to dilate them, or combined with them and forming one of their principles. In all the operations that absorb a part of this free fire (*feu libre*) as our author calls it, cold is produced; in all those in which it is disengaged, heat. He concludes, that every elastic aeriform fluid is a combination of the matter of fire with any fluid or even solid volatile body; and that volatility is no other than the property bodies have of dissolving in a certain manner, and of uniting with the matter of fire and forming with it aeriform fluids.

XVIII. *Observations on the phosphoric acid obtained by the deliquium of phosphorus, and on the neutral salts which result from a combination of this acid with alkalis*, by M. Cadet.—An ounce of phosphorus furnishes, by *deliquium*, three ounces of an acid that has neither colour nor smell. Combined with fixed alkalis or absorbent earths it forms a neutral salt which is not deliquescent. These experiments prove, that the acid obtained in this manner is different from that which is procured by deflagration.

XIX. *Observations on the acid of sugar*, by the same.—This is an account of Professor Bergman's

man's process, which our readers will find described in the First Volume of our Journal, page 81.

[ *To be concluded in our next.* ]

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IV. Caroli Strack, M. D. *in Universitate Mogunt. Instit. Med. Profess. &c. de crusta lactea infantum & ejusdem specifico remedio dissertatio, quam scientiarum artium atque literarum academia quæ Lugduni in Galliis est altero duplici præmio coronavit die 3 Decemb. 1776. 8vo. Francf. ad Mœnum, 1779. p. 61.*

THE disease which is the subject of this dissertation generally attacks children at the breast, and begins to disappear soon after they are weaned. In some however it makes its appearance at a later period and continues even to the sixth year, and our author speaks of a child who had a return of the disorder in his fourth year. It commonly begins on the cheeks, with an eruption of pimples filled with a limpid fluid. As the pimples crack, this fluid hardens, and by degrees forms a thick crust of a reddish yellow colour. As the disease advances, the skin underneath it swells and hardens, and at length the

glands of the neck, and sometimes, though rarely, the parotid glands begin to be affected.

In some children this scurf spreads behind the ears, and down to the chin, disfiguring the whole face, the eye-lids excepted. In some it is attended with a running at the ears, and in others, though less frequently, with ophthalmia. Now and then it affects the neck, breast, abdomen, and extremities.

Our author acknowledges his inability to ascertain the real cause of this disorder. He supposes it, however, to be contagious and even hereditary. He has observed that children, whose mothers have been subject to it in their infancy, are more liable to it than others though suckled by other women, and that nurses who have themselves been affected with it seldom fail to communicate it to the children they suckle.

Our author refutes the commonly-received notion, that this disorder is a security from the small pox. He observes, that if it attacks the glands or is repelled by topical applications it is sometimes productive of the worst effects, and he likewise considers the scurf's not breaking, so as to afford a sufficient outlet to the matter, as an unfavourable circumstance, it being apt in such cases to attack the glands of the mesentery.

Dr.

Dr. Strack remarks of this disease, that the constant itching that attends it deprives the patients of sleep, and of course emaciates them. When the genitals happen to be affected the urine excoriates the parts and adds to the complaint. If left to nature it generally disappears in about six months. In some however it is of much longer duration. He has observed of those who have been relieved by nature, without the interposition of remedies, that the urine has smelt like that of cats. The sooner this happens the sooner the scurf dries off; but when the urine retains its usual odour the disease is generally of long continuance, and as there is always danger of its terminating in tabes mesenterica or some other fatal complaint, it will seldom be prudent to leave it to itself.

The specific recommended by our author for the cure of this disorder is the *viola tricolor* LINN. A handful of the fresh or half a drachm of the dried leaves of this plant are to be boiled in half a pint of cow's milk, which is afterwards to be strained for use. This dose is to be repeated every morning and evening. He observes, that when it has been administered eight days in this manner, the eruption usually increases considerably, even in those who had it only in a slight degree

degree previous to the use of this remedy, the urine at the same time acquiring the smell just now spoken of. When the medicine has been continued a fortnight the scurf commonly begins to fall off in large scales, and the skin underneath it appears clean. In order to prevent a relapse we are directed to persevere in the use of the remedy till the skin has resumed its natural appearance and the urine ceases to have any particular smell. A variety of cases are related in which this medicine is said to have succeeded; and the author asserts, that during the twenty years he has prescribed it, he has hardly ever known it to fail.—Its simplicity will probably recommend it to the notice of medical practitioners, and we soon hope to hear that its efficacy has been put to the test in this country.

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*V. Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Vol. 71, for the year 1781. Part 1. 4to. London, 1781, 226 pages, with 10 copper plates.*

**O**F the fifteen papers contained in this work we shall content ourselves with particularly noticing the three following,

I. *Ex-*



I. *Experiments and observations on the specific gravities and attractive powers of various saline substances.* By Richard Kirwan, Esq; F. R. S.—

The doctrine of chemical affinities hath of late been considerably improved by the labours of Bergman and Wenzel, but the order of these attractions has been the only point attended to by these philosophers, as well as by the generality of preceding chemists. M. Morveau of Dijon is the only writer who has thought of ascertaining the various degrees of force of chemical attraction, by which one body acts on various other bodies, or even on the same body in various circumstances. He has, however, so ably shewn the advantages arising from such an inquiry, that the author of the paper before us having been induced to make it the subject of his attention, has been enabled to determine pretty exactly the proportion of the ingredients of many neutral salts, and the specific gravity of the mineral acids in their purest state and free from all water. The results of his experiments on this subject are given in several tables which the limits of our Journal will not allow us to insert.—The lovers of philosophical chemistry will receive much information from Mr. Kirwan's ingenious researches.

II. *An*

II. *An account of the violent storm of lightning at East-bourn in Sussex, Sept. 17, 1780. Communicated by Owen Salusbury Brereton, Esq; F. R. and A. S.*

The melancholy accident here described happened in a house rented by James Adair, Esq; near the sea. The morning was very stormy, and at nine o'clock a black cloud appeared; out of which Mr. Adair saw several balls of fire drop into the sea successively, as he was approaching the window in a one pair of stairs room; and very soon after, as he was standing at it with his hands clasped, a flash of fire forced them asunder, and threw him several yards upon the floor, where he remained motionless for a considerable time. The right sleeve of his coat, waistcoat, and shirt, and likewise the right side of his breeches, were torn intirely open, as if by a dog, and his right arm, right side and thigh were miserably scorched, and the flesh torn. His right shoe and stocking likewise were torn, and one of his toes split almost to the bone. Under the room Mr. Adair was in, on the parlour floor, were his coachman, butler, and footman. The coachman was going to open a glass door to go towards the sea, and was struck dead. His body was totally black. His cloaths and the caul of his wig, and  
cravat,

cravat, were much torn ; but no wound was to be seen in any part of his body.—The footman was dressing his hair near a window, when he was thrown dead on the ground. He appeared much scorched, bruised, and black. He had a very large wound in his side, which penetrated near his heart ; but very little, if any, blood came from it. It is remarkable, that although the bodies of these two persons lay unburied from Sunday till Tuesday, all their limbs remained perfectly flexible. The butler was a yard or two behind the coachman, and going out with a telescope in his hand, which was forced in pieces from him, his hat and wig were thrown to some distance, and he perceived a violent pressure on his skull and on his back, but was no otherwise hurt. He had a silver watch with a silver chain, which received no damage. It was observed likewise, that a silver buckle in Mr. Adair's shoe was not in the least hurt, whereas his watch chain, which was of steel, the brass button of his breeches, and a penknife and key in his right side breeches pocket, had several marks of fusion upon them ; and the enamelled face of a silver watch in the coachman's fob was broken to pieces, and the links of his steel chain fastened together.

In the room over Mr. Adair's a young lady was dressing and her maid attending. They were both driven to a distant part of the room, and rendered insensible for some time, but not hurt.

III. *An account of the Harmattan, a singular African wind.* By Matthew Dobson, M. D. F. R. S. Communicated by John Fothergill, M. D. F. R. S.

The Harmattan is a periodical wind which blows from the interior parts of Africa towards the Atlantic ocean, and possesses such extraordinary properties, as to merit the attention of the naturalist, making a curious and important article in the history and theory of the winds.

The account here given of it is collected from observations communicated to the author by Mr. Norris, an intelligent gentleman, who has frequently visited the coast of Africa.

This singular wind comes on indiscriminately at any hour of the day, or at any period of the moon, and continues sometimes only a day or two, sometimes fifteen or sixteen days. There are generally three or four returns of it every season. The peculiarities that attend it are a fog or haze, extreme dryness, and salubrity. The fog is so great as to make even near objects obscure, and the sun concealed the greatest part of  
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the day, appears only during a few hours about noon, and then of a mild red, exciting no painful sensation on the eye. No dew falls during the continuance of this wind. Vegetables of every kind are much injured and even destroyed by it if it continues long. Such is the extreme dryness produced by it that covers of books, shut up in trunks among cloaths, are bent as if they had been exposed to the fire. Household furniture is also much damaged by it; the panels of doors split, and the joints of a well laid floor of seasoned wood open sufficiently to lay one's finger in them; but become as close as before on the ceasing of the Harmattan.

The parching effects of this wind are likewise evident on the external parts of the body. The eyes, nostrils, lips, and palate are rendered dry and uneasy, and drink is often required, not so much to quench thirst, as to remove a painful aridity in the fauces. The lips and nose become sore and even chopped, and if the Harmattan continues four or five days, the scarf skin peels off, first from the hands and face and afterwards from the rest of the body, if it continues a day or two longer.—Salt of tartar, moistened *ad deliquium*, became perfectly dry in two or three hours when exposed to the Harmattan. Such is

the salubrity of this wind that it stops the progress of epidemical and contagious diseases, and patients labouring under fevers or fluxes generally recover during its continuance. It is likewise noted for contributing much to the cure of ulcers, as well as cutaneous eruptions. This differs from the account given by Dr. Lind, who, speaking of the fatal and malignant effects of this wind, observes, " that its noxious vapours  
 " are destructive to blacks as well as whites,  
 " and that the mortality which it occasions  
 " is in proportion to the density and duration of the fog." Our author, who is aware of this contradiction, supposes that there may be instances in which the Harmattan comes loaded with the effluvia of a putrid marsh, and that in such the nature of the wind may be so changed as to become noxious.

According to Dr. Lind the Harmattan arises from the conflux of several rivers about Benin; but Mr. Norris conjectures, that it takes its source from a part of Africa about the 15th deg. of north lat. and the 25th deg. of east long.—Our author thinks it probable, that the disagreeable Levant wind of the Mediterranean proceeds from the same part of the continent of Africa.—The paper concludes with an account of the  
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manner in which the Fantees, a nation on the Gold coast, divide their year.

The papers that form the remainder of the contents are, *A natural history and description of the Tyger Cat of the Cape of Good Hope*, by J. R. Forster, L. L. D. F. R. S. and A. S.—*Essay on a new method of applying the screw*, by Mr. William Hunter, surgeon.—*An account of the Turkey*, by Thomas Pennant, Esq; F. R. S.—*Account of a Nebula in Comâ Berenices*, by Edw. Pigott, Esq;—*Double stars discovered in 1779, at Frampton-house, Glamorganshire*, by N. Pigott, Esq; F. R. S.—*An account of the Ganges and Burrampooter rivers*, by James Rennell, Esq; F. R. S.—*Observations on the rotation of the planets round their axes*, by Mr. W. Herschel.—*Some account of the Termites, which are found in Africa and other hot climates*, by Mr. H. Smeathman.—*An account of several Earthquakes felt in Wales*, by Tho. Pennant, Esq; F. R. S.—*Extract of a letter from the right hon. Earl Stanhope*, F. R. S. containing observations concerning the roots of adfected equations.—*Extract of two meteorological journals of the weather observed on the coast of Labradore*, by Mr. De la Trobe.—*Meteorological journal for 1780, kept at the house of the Royal Society*.—Prefixed to the volume are a list of the Society, and a  
speech

speech delivered by the president at their last anniversary.

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## SECTION II.

### ESSAYS AND OBSERVATIONS.

- I. *A case of hemiplegia, succeeded by mania. Communicated by Richard Cowling, M. D. surgeon to the 85th regiment of foot. Read August 27th, 1781.*

William Jackson, a private soldier, twenty-two years old, was suddenly seized, on the 2d of Sept. 1780, with a great numbness on his left side, and immediately after perceived he had in a great measure lost the use of all his limbs of that side. He was carried to the hospital, where I found him the next morning labouring under a considerable stupor, and deprived of almost all voluntary power of the whole left side. He had however now and then slight involuntary twitchings, but no tremors, in both the upper and lower left extremities. In moving him from place to place he dragged his left leg behind him; and his left arm, which he was unable to raise in the smallest degree, was obviously much colder and paler, and seemed at the same time,

time, though it had been diseased only so short a time, somewhat smaller than his right arm. The pulse in the left arm was also much slower, smaller, and feebler than that in the right. His tongue, and the parts about the larynx, were so much affected as to occasion a faltering utterance in his speech, and a difficulty in swallowing even his saliva. The left cheek and the left side of his mouth were generally spasmodically contracted toward his left side; but sometimes his whole face was thrown, convulsively, into several directions and some singularly ludicrous distortions, insomuch that even a saturnine spectator found difficulty in maintaining his gravity. To be laughed at, or even smiled at, seemed, from the lowering look with which every observer was constantly eyed, what the patient most dreaded, and what never failed, however triflingly and inadvertently excited, to put him into the most immediate and outrageous passion; while the secretly retrograde manner, in which he always attempted to withdraw himself from every beholder, intimated that he was conscious, or rather, in the present state of his brain, instinctively aware of his being an object of derision. His appetite was moderate, his belly rather bound, but his nights were entirely sleepless.

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His mind was equally affected with his body, so that to the simplest and plainest questions he returned the most incoherent answers. Every motion that he made with the sound side of his body was of a very vehement and desultory kind. His eyes wide open, and, seemingly protruding, glared a wild fierce stare, and he was incessantly grating his teeth with all the gesticulations of rage. Although he had lost the use of one side, his conduct, notwithstanding, became that night so violent as to render it prudent to appoint him two attendants, in preference to the strait waistcoat, which, from the different applications that might be necessarily made to his left side, was deemed inconvenient. The lifeless immobility of his left side, contrasted with the appearances just now described, formed a sight as singular as it was melancholy.

Upon inquiring of his comrades it did not appear, that he had ever, to their knowledge, been affected with any indisposition similar to this, but they all agreed, that he had been guilty of frequent and violent intoxication, spending the money he had got by making shoes for the company (generally a guinea a week) and likewise his half week's pay in liquor, between Saturday and Monday; and that he had been known, after these  
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debauches, to starve for twenty-four and in some instances even forty-eight hours. These circumstances and the whole of the case considered, I had no doubt that this patient laboured under a complete hemiplegia, and what Dr. Battie would term, as being subsequent to the hemiplegia, a *consequential* madness. And from the extremely thin habit of the patient's body, the well-proportioned size and length of his head and neck, his immoderate and repeated intoxications, and the state of inanition that had succeeded them, I was of opinion, that his paralysis was not to be attributed to a sanguineous or serous compression on the brain, but to a collapse \* of a part of the brain and nervous system, brought on by the above-mentioned sedative and debilitating causes : for it is a well known, though singular fact, both from the dissections of paralytic subjects and the experiments made on brute animals, that one half of the brain and the opposite half of the body have been exceedingly injured, while the other half of the brain and of the body have not been at all affected.

Being convinced therefore, that my attention ought to be directed solely to the removal of

\* *Collapse* may be defined, a morbid diminution of the tone of the brain and of the motion of the nervous fluid.

the primary disease, I directed a blister to be applied to the patient's left arm and another to his left thigh, and at the same time ordered his whole left side to be well rubbed with a flesh brush, and then wrapped up in flannel. Once in four hours he took a bolus composed of gum guaiac. gr. v. limat. ferri gr. xv. and pulv. cort. Peruv. ℥ss. and he washed down each bolus with four table spoonfuls of the following formula—℞. Tinct. canthar. ℥j. sal. c. c. vol. ℥ss. tinctur. aromat. ℥ij. aq. menth. pip. simp. ℥vjss. M.—For his breakfast he was allowed a pint of milk, five ounces of bread, and rather a large proportion of nutmeg; for dinner, a pound of flesh-meat, six ounces of bread, and a pint of porter, with a large quantity of pepper, mustard, and horse-radish; and for supper, he had, repeated, his breakfast. He went on with all these measures for four days, without experiencing one lucid interval, or any other alteration, than, on the last of those days and the sixth of his disease, a tumefaction of his whole tongue, and an almost unintelligible muttering in his speech: his tongue, which had acquired a morbid inclination toward his left cheek, and which had likewise lost its usual volubility and sensation, had been bit through in several places by the grinding of his teeth, with-



without the patient having even once made the least complaint. These wounds in his tongue were washed with a solution of alum and nitre.

As I had met with very great success, in four former but pure palsies, from this patient's regimen and medicines, I determined to persevere steadily in their use; and, to give them greater effect, now further ordered his left side and left limbs to be frequently rubbed with a mixture of vinegar and mustard.—In this manner he was treated during the remainder of his disorder. At length, on the eleventh day, it was observed, that, along with other signs of a general amendment, the pulse, in particular, in the patient's palsied arm, was become stronger and fuller, and the muscles of the same side firmer and more elastic than they had ever been before since his attack, and on the day following his reason, which had been hitherto so exceedingly disordered, appeared to be proportionably restored; the grinding of his teeth had ceased, the whole of his conduct was more calm and consistent, and his speech seemed to be much mended.

From the time that the above salutary change took place, the patient continued gradually, though slowly, to recover; first, the use of his limbs, and, soon afterwards, the faculties of his

mind, so that on the twenty-first day from the commencement of his disorder he was discharged, cured.

*Furnival's Inn,  
July 13th, 1781.*

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II. *Account of a woman who had the small pox during pregnancy, and who communicated the same disease to her fœtus. By Robert Bland, M. D. physician man-midwife to the Westminster General Dispensary. Read Sept. 10th, 1781.*

SOME of the most respectable writers are found to differ in their opinion concerning the possibility of a pregnant woman's communicating to her foetus the infection of the small pox. A curious case related by the ingenious Mr. Hunter, in the 70th volume of the Philosophical Transactions proves, that such a communication may take place; but as a solitary fact, in a matter of this sort, however ably supported, is seldom sufficient to remove doubt, and as the number of cases in this way can hardly ever be expected to be numerous, I shall make no apology for communicating to the Society an account of a similar instance as it occurred lately to Mrs. Griffith, one of the Midwives to the Westminster General

General Dispensary, a person on whose veracity I can depend. As the child was interred before I was informed of the singularity of the case, I had no other means of satisfying myself of the truth than by making a diligent inquiry concerning all the circumstances of it. This I have done, and as the account given me by Mrs. Gatton, the patient, confirm in every particular that of the midwife, I have no doubt of its having happened in the manner I shall now relate.

In July last Mary Gatton, of Prince's-street, Westminster, was attacked with the small pox. She was then in the seventh month of her pregnancy. The disease proved to be of the confluent kind, and was attended with a considerable fever. Six days after the turn of the pock, or about eighteen from the first attack of the eruptive fever, she was taken in labour and delivered of a child, which seemed to have been dead five or six days. Its body was covered with confluent small pox. The pustules were white and full of matter, and from their size seemed to have nearly attained their maturity.

*St. Alban's-street,*  
Sept. 1, 1781.

SECTION

## SECTION III.

## MEDICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL NEWS.

THE Academy of Belles Lettres, Sciences, and Arts, at Marfeilles, have proposed the following subject for a prize medal of three hundred livres value: “ The plant vulgarly called *barbe de Renard*, known to botanists by the name of *Tracanta Massiliensis*, which grows naturally on the borders of the Mediterranean, is it the same as that which is cultivated in the Levant for the extraction of Gum Tragacanth; and, if so, what would be the best method of cultivating it for that purpose in Provence? ” — The dissertations are to be sent to M. Mouraille, secretary to the academy, before the 1st of Jan: 1783.

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Extract of a letter from Dr. Saury, physician to his imperial and royal majesty, dated Mosul in Asia, Dec. 7, 1780.

“ The Hydrophobia is unknown in the island of Cyprus, at Sidon, at Tripoli in Syria, along the whole coast of Syria, and even at Aleppo. The Europeans who inhabit those countries all agree, that dogs never go mad there. Among the

the causes of canine madness, Boerhaave enumerates a burning climate, a hot dry season, want of water, and the feeding on putrid flesh. All these causes prevail in Cyprus, along the coast of Syria and at Aleppo. In Cyprus the climate is very hot, and water extremely scarce. There is so little rain, that from Easter to November the gardens lie uncultivated for want of water. Every body knows, that the coast of Syria is equally hot, and the air very dry. On the other hand, in all the towns, under the Mahometan government, dogs are very numerous, and as they are no particular person's property they live on the offal of the shambles and what they can pick up in the streets. In the country they are destitute of water, and feed upon dead camels, horses, &c. It would seem then, that the want of water, and the other causes I have mentioned, are not sufficient to excite madness in an animal, and that there is some other cause, as yet unknown, which, in Europe, renders this disorder so frequent. It is very rare at Mosul; nevertheless I have this year seen a mad dog here who bit a Turk. The Dominicans, who are the only European physicians at this place, recommended local scarifications, and the bite produced no bad effect."

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Extract

Extract of a letter from Dr. Olaus Acrell, physician at Upsal.

“ Both the cause and the cure of the *Tinea Capitis* are as yet far from being satisfactorily ascertained. In Sweden women very often succeed in the removal of this complaint by extracting the hairs by their roots, and afterwards washing the head repeatedly with a weak alkaline lixivium, or a solution of vitriol or alum. This process however is tedious, sometimes requiring many months, and even repeated extraction of the hair before the cure is completed. In my own practice, I have generally found the following method succeed the best: I first draw out the hair and then wash the head with a decoction of *centaureum minus*, in which I dissolve a small portion of corrosive sublimate. At the same time I give internally either the *æthiops antimonialis* or a table spoonful of the following mixture every morning and evening:  $\mathcal{R}$ . Merc. corros. sublim. gr. vj. aq. distill.  $\mathfrak{z}$ ix. aq. cinnamon. simp.  $\mathfrak{z}$ ij. spir. vin. rectific. syrup. alth. an.  $\mathfrak{z}$ j. M.

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In the *Journal de Medecine* for July 1781, M. Chartier, physician at Anjou, relates the case of  
a man



A man forty years of age, who was attacked with a deep-seated, pungent pain in the right side, extending from the fourth true rib to the first false rib, and attended with a dry cough and difficulty of breathing. These symptoms continued for three or four months, during which time he was unable to lie on his right side. After that he began to expectorate a whitish frothy mucus. His pulse was but little affected, yet his countenance acquired a yellowish tinge, and in a short time he died. Upon dissection the right lobe of the lungs was found adhering to the pleura. The left was totally suppurated. The pus had eroded the pericardium, and destroyed more than two-thirds of its substance. The liver, though in other respects apparently sound, was of an extraordinary bulk; extending from the right to the left hypochondrium. The spleen was likewise much enlarged, the stomach, by the pressure of the two viscera, was forced down into the umbilical region, and the omentum into the epigastric region.

In the same work M. Maurice, surgeon at Chinon, gives an account of a young man aged twenty-two years, who had his left *tendo Achillis* cut through by a sickle. The wound was transverse, deep, and two inches and a half long.

The muscles of the calf of the leg were contracted under the ham, that part of the tendon next to the muscles being drawn at least three inches upwards, while the lower end of it projected considerably. In fifty-five days, with the assistance of suitable bandages, the two portions were reunited, and the patient was able to walk.

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Signor Bartollozi, an Italian naturalist, has observed, that the fecundation of plants does not always depend on a feminal dust. In the *asclepias* this process is effected by means of a transparent glutinous liquor, a drop of which is to be seen at the top of the filament, the anthera containing no dust.——*Journ. de Physique*, for April 1781.

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M. Boué, surgeon at Meulan sur Seine, has published an account of a woman who was advised to make use of a warm bath impregnated with a large quantity of quicklime, as a cure for the rheumatism. She used it twice, and remained in it an hour each time. The effects of this improper application were a total loss of hair and cuticle from every part that came in contact with  
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the water, and an apparently incurable contraction of all her limbs.——*Gazette de Santé.*

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The dysentery which was so prevalent in London during the autumns of 1779 and 1780 seems to be equally rife at present. Some few patients were attacked with it so early as the last week in July; but it became much more general towards the latter end of August and the beginning of September. In the greater number of cases it has been attended with profuse evacuations by stool of a watery, mucous matter mixed with blood; severe gripings of the bowels, and pain in the back and loins, with tenesmus, nausea, and fever: but some have had violent *tormina*, with little or no discharge by stool. Some few old and infirm persons have sunk under it, and we have seen one instance where it proved fatal by coming on in a case of confluent small pox about the time of the crisis; but in general it has yielded to a proper mode of treatment. Opium, after the necessary evacuations have been premised, has proved of great use. In some cases where the *tormina* were extremely severe we have found it necessary to allay the irritation in the bowels by giving opium even at the be-

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ginning, joined with some purgative medicine. Bleeding, when the pain of the bowels has been accompanied with a high pulse and other inflammatory symptoms, has generally had a good effect. When the sickness at the stomach has been considerable, an emetic has commonly proved efficacious. In several cases where visceral obstructions have been brought on by cordials, astringents, and other improper remedies, we have experienced good effects from small doses of calomel with a grain of opium, given occasionally at bed-time.

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An English translation of Professor Bergman's Essay on the application of chemistry to the various purposes of life, is now in the press in London, with the addition of some useful chemical tables by the translator.

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### PROMOTION.

*August 28.*—Mr. Thomas Merrick to be surgeon to the 96th regiment of foot, in the room of Mr. Wood.

### DEATHS.

## D E A T H S.

*July* 24. at Netherfole house, near Canterbury, aged 72 years, John Winchester, Esq; Member of the Corporation of Surgeons, London. He was formerly an eminent surgeon in Norfolk-street in the Strand, but declined practice several years ago on a considerable estate being left to him for life by ——— Marsh, Esq; in consequence of his setting the leg of a favourite dog, being before a stranger to him. His estate (about 1500 l. *per annum*) now descends to Mr. Marsh's nephew. He has left one son, a captain in the army, and a daughter married to Sir Edward Dering, Bart.———*August* 18. Suddenly, at an inn at Maidenhead, Berkshire, Mr. Hawkins, apothecary, of New Palace Yard, Westminster.———*Sept.* 2. At Port Glasgow, in Scotland, Mr. John M'Colme, surgeon to the western fencible regiment.———17. At Brompton, near Chatham, Kent, Mr. Hodskin, surgeon and apothecary, formerly a navy surgeon.

## SECTION

## SECTION IV.

## MONTHLY CATALOGUE.

1. **R**EPORTS of the Humane Society, instituted in the year 1774, for the recovery of persons apparently drowned. For the years 1779 and 1780. 8vo. *Rivington*, London, 1781. 157 pages.

2. *Dissertatio inauguralis de cinerea cerebri substantia.* Auctore *Christiano Frederico Ludwig.* 4to. *Lipsiæ*, 1779. 34 pages, *with a copper plate.*

3. *Rapport sur plusieurs questions proposées à la Société Royale de Médecine, par M. l'Ambassadeur de la Religion, de la part de S. A. Eminentissime Monseigneur le Grand Maître, &c. lu dans la séance de la Société Royale de Médecine, tenue au Louvre le 5 Decembre, 1780.*

4. *Answers to several questions proposed to the Royal Medical Society (at Paris) by the Maltese Ambassador, at the request of his Eminency the Grand Master, &c. read at a meeting of the Royal Medical Society, held at the Louvre, December 5, 1780.* 4to. *Malta*, 1781. 54 pages.

The island of Malta, founded on a rock, has only a single burial place, which is in the vaults of a church that was overthrown by an earthquake



quake in January 1780. The College of Physicians at Malta recommended the stopping up the vaults, and advised against rebuilding on the ruins of the church. The questions proposed therefore to the Royal Society at Paris were, 1. Whether it was right to stop up the vaults, and whether the church may be rebuilt on the same spot? 2. After what length of time may the vaults be opened again with safety? 3. What precautions are necessary to prevent the infection which the digging the earth in this spot might occasion, and when will the danger of such infection be over? 4. What are the objections to the practice of burying in churches? To the first of these questions the Society answer, That it was prudent to stop up the vaults. In reply to the second they observe, that the small pox was lately epidemic at Malta; that the plague prevailed there in 1676, and that a part of the vaults in question was set apart for the bodies of those who died of the latter disease. They remark, that the time contagious miasmata preserve their activity is uncertain; but they think it would be prudent to suffer twenty-four or twenty-five years more to elapse before the earth is opened in these vaults. There will then have been a space of 128 or 129 years since the time  
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of the plague, and the destruction of the dead bodies will be complete; on this occasion the Society quote the example of the magistrates of Marseilles in a recent instance. In 1720, when the plague raged in that city, the dead bodies were interred in the burial ground belonging to the Celestines. A proposal was lately made to build on that spot, but the magistrates very properly opposed it. In answer to the third question the Society mention all the precautions that will be requisite in opening the vaults; and in their reply to the fourth they offer a variety of arguments to prove the impropriety of burying the dead in churches or even within the walls of great towns.

4. *Henrick Palmaz Leweling, D. A. D. &c: Anatomische erkläerung der original figuren von Andreas Vesalius; i. e. An anatomical description of the original plates of Andrew Vesalius. By Henry Palmaz Leweling, M. D. professor of anatomy and surgery in the university of Ingolstadt. Vol. I. Folio. Ingolstadt; 1780. p. 120.*

The whole of this work is to be comprized in seven volumes. This first volume contains the Osteology.



THE  
LONDON MEDICAL JOURNAL,

For OCTOBER 1781.



SECTION I.

BOOKS.



- I. *Nonnulla circa methodum luis Venereæ curandæ  
meditamenta. Auctore Adolpho Murray, M. D.  
et Anatom. Prof. 4to. Upfal. p. 48.*

**T**HIS little work contains a variety of observations on the different remedies employed in the cure of venereal complaints. We shall select from it such as appear to be the most interesting.

In travelling through Italy, our author was surprized to find that in the hospitals of that country, instead of Mercury, the use of which is still prohibited, the physicians content themselves with prescribing a decoction of the woods, which serves only to mitigate the symptoms of the disease, and to emaciate the patients by sweating.

In a case of virulent gonorrhœa Dr. Murray administered the volatile alkali, a remedy strongly recommended by M. Peyrilhe, a French writer. The effects it produced were a violent inflammation of the urinary passages, a suppression of the discharge, and other alarming symptoms. Another patient afflicted with venereal ulcers had his complaints greatly exasperated by the use of the same medicine.

Speaking of the different modes of exhibiting mercury, he observes, that frictions, fumigations, mucilaginous and saline preparations of this mineral have each of them their respective merits in different circumstances of the disease. He considers the saline as differing from the other preparations of mercury in this respect only, that the mercury in them is more divided, and for this reason he thinks they are quicker and more efficacious in their operation.

He advises us to be cautious in the use of fumigations, as the vapour of mercury is apt to excite profuse salivation, or to affect the nervous system, and produce tremor. On this subject he relates a case, communicated to him by Mr. Scopoli, of a man who, upon being exposed to the vapour of sublimate in melting it with copper, fell instantly into a violent pyralism.

Dr.

Dr. Murray observes, that the saline preparations of mercury frequently occasion fevers, cough, spasms, and other dangerous complaints, especially in persons subject to hæmoptoe or the hæmorrhoids. For this reason he objects to their being given to such patients. He is of opinion, that although in general they soon relieve the symptoms, they hardly ever operate a cure.

He has sometimes experienced very disagreeable effects from the use of Keyser's pills. Of Bellette's syrup (which consists of mercury precipitated by an alkali from its solution in the nitrous acid, and mixed with æther and syrup) he remarks, that it proves efficacious only when given in large doses, and that it then frequently excites, by its stimulus, the most alarming symptoms.

Dr. Murray disapproves of the mixed method of cure recommended by M. Gardane. He has sometimes found Plenck's remedy of use, but he dislikes it because it separates in the stomach, and frequently passes off by stool.

He prefers the cure by frictions to every other method. He confesses however that in pregnant women, and in dropsical or phthifical patients, they are not adviseable; but similar objections, he observes, may be made to every other mer-

curial medicine. He is disposed to impute the bad effects, which are sometimes found to follow a course of frictions, to the fault of the prescriber or patient, rather than to the remedy.

In speaking of frictions he takes occasion to treat very fully of the method practised at Montpellier, a place much frequented by venereal patients on account of the purity and mildness of the climate. Our author is of opinion, however, that in the first period of the disease a very warm air is hurtful. He has observed, that at Rome and Naples a gonorrhœa is more difficult to cure than the lues itself. He therefore ascribes the success of the Montpellier method to the superior excellence of the remedies employed there, rather than to any particular circumstance relative to the climate. This method, which the French writers term *the cure by extinction*, consists in administering mercurial ointment without exciting a salivation. Bleeding, purging, a light diet, and a frequent repetition of the warm bath, are prescribed previous to the frictions. Our author is of opinion, that in this way warm bathing promotes the absorption and distribution of the mercury through the system. For a slight infection he thinks the warm bathing should be repeated thirty, and for an



an inveterate lues an hundred times. After the skin has been sufficiently prepared by these means, the patient is directed to rub in from half a drachm to half an ounce of mercurial ointment every second or third day, till he has consumed twelve or fifteen ounces of the ointment. If the mouth begins to be affected after seven or eight frictions, the salivation is to be checked by changing the patient's shirt, and by employing sudorifics, purges, and warm bathing.

The physicians at Montpellier have observed, that scorbutic patients afflicted with the lues can seldom be cured of the latter disease by mercury, unless they have been previously cured of the scurvy. In cases of venereal phthisis they prescribe asses and goats milk, lichen islandicus, and the juice of snails and millepedes previous to the use of mercury. If there are any urgent symptoms, such as a deep-seated caries, an inflamed exostosis, or a dangerous ulcer, they have recourse immediately to mercury; but as soon as the symptoms are in a certain degree mitigated, they suspend its use till they have gone through the usual preparatory course of bathing, &c. after which they finish the cure by frictions.

After describing the Montpellier mode of treatment, our author gives us several practical remarks.

remarks. If a bubo forms, he thinks the internal use of mercury necessary to the cure. When the glands first begin to inflame, he recommends the application of extract of saturn and mercurial ointment to the part, with repeated purges to promote a resolution of the tumour. If the bubo suppurates, he cautions us against opening it before it is perfectly soft, and then he thinks the knife preferable to a caustic. He is averse to our dressing the wound with mercurials, as the cure, though perhaps more speedy, will be fallacious. For the same reason he objects to similar applications to chancres. In cases where the suppuration has not gone on favourably, he has seen good effects from a blister applied to the gland.

In obstinate exostoses he advises us to saw off the diseased portion of bone, but in cases of venereal caries he recommends an extract of *Gratiola* or *bedge kyssop*, as a medicine of considerable efficacy.

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II. *A short enquiry into the merit of solvents, so far as may be necessary to compare them with the operation of lithotomy.* By Jere Whitaker Newman, member of the Corporation of Surgeons, London. 8vo. Doddsley, London, 1781. 43 pages, price 1s 6d.

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THE design of this essay is to give a view of the general method of treatment by internal medicines and its effects; and, in a concise manner, to compare the advantages and evils resulting from a reliance on that mode of treatment, with those attending the extraction by manual operation.

The work is divided into three chapters. In the first the author begins with vindicating his brethren from the idea of a predilection for operations, which has been so commonly, though erroneously annexed to the character of a surgeon. He then offers some few remarks on the general theory and basis of solvents, and takes occasion to relate the singular but well-known circumstance attending Mrs. Stephens's medicine in the case which procured her the reward from parliament.

In the second chapter he mentions some of the causes which have tended to render lithotomy less successful than it would otherwise have been. The first of these is delay, the frequency and fatality of which induced Frere Jacques to exclaim, that if lithotomy, as its opposers asserted, had killed thousands, putting off the operation until the patient's strength and constitution were exhausted had destroyed tens of thousands. A  
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second cause spoken of by our author is, the long-continued courses of lixivial and other remedies, intended as solvents: a third he supposes to be the contaminated air of hospitals; and a fourth an inattention to a few particulars previous to and during the operation.—The two last causes are treated of in his third chapter.

X Speaking of the pernicious effects of solvents our author mentions the case of the late Mr. Garrick, who laboured for many years under a calculous complaint. Partial to medicines and eager to embrace every thing that possessed or promised any efficacy, he persisted in the use of many solvents; and a violent pain in the stomach, which latterly was frequent, he generally attributed to the effects of these medicines, as he had not experienced it previous to their use. On inspecting his body after death, the organization of the kidneys appeared to be almost wholly destroyed; and a stone of considerable size was found in the bladder, the surface of which plainly evinced that it had not been in any degree abraded.

Mr. Newman has seen two instances, where the patients, in a distinct benign species of the small pox, died, though the disease in the neighbourhood was by no means fatal. Both were taking solvents when the symptoms of the small pox came

came on. A third patient, under a similar course, was seized with a putrid fever, which terminated in death, notwithstanding the liberal use of bark, port wine, &c.

On the subject of fixed air, given as a lithon-  
triptic, our author shews, that its total inefficacy  
in several cases, and the want of proof that a  
stone really existed where it was supposed to have  
been beneficial, prevent any thing being de-  
cided in its favour.

He very properly recommends gentleness in  
searching, previous to the operation. " The  
" puerile circumstance—says he—of the in-  
" strument being heard to resound against the  
" stone, by persons at a distant part of a room,  
" will not warrant us in moving the sound rude-  
" ly and rapidly in the cavity of the bladder,  
" where there is a possibility of striking it  
" against the internal membrane, which, besides  
" increasing the pain, might be productive of  
" disagreeable consequences."

In speaking of the defects in some parts of  
the operation, he confines himself chiefly to the  
external incision, which every one, in the habit  
of attending to operations, must at times have  
observed to be too small for the extraction of  
the stone; the utility of a large external inci-

sion in these cases seems to be generally acknowledged.

In this part of his work the author hints at the mischiefs that have been produced by the notion that quickness is an indispensable qualification in a lithotomist. "An operator, he observes, must be possessed of a good share of coolness and intrepidity, who would not be affected by thirty or forty watches being taken out in a theatre, to determine critically the precise time in which the operation was performing." We hoped that after what had been so judiciously remarked by Mr. Pott some years ago on this subject, the absurd and dangerous custom here alluded to was universally exploded.

Towards the close of his performance, Mr. Newman endeavours to determine what is the general success of lithotomy. For this purpose he quotes the account given by the late Mr. Cheselden of his practice in this way, and from this, added to what has fallen under his own observation, during his attendance at hospitals, he concludes, that not more than one out of eleven dies in consequence of being cut for the stone. He observes, that "should future ages possess a solvent, efficacious, but  
" not



“ not destructive to the system, lithotomy may  
 “ perhaps be superseded;” but that “ till then  
 “ reason and experience point it out as the best  
 “ and only resource.”

He concludes “ with advising those, who  
 “ have prudent resolution enough to undergo  
 “ the operation, to do it in time, before the  
 “ irritation of the disease itself, or the deleterious  
 “ use of solvents, have impaired their general  
 “ health: for in a morbid state of the blood  
 “ and juices, no wound can heal kindly; and  
 “ the operation, however safe and skilfully per-  
 “ formed, by such means may be rendered ha-  
 “ zardous, and frequently fatal.”

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III. *Memoirs of the Royal Academy of Sciences at  
 Paris.* (Continued from page 110.)

XX. *Observations on nitre with an absorbent  
 earthy basis procured from the saltpetre  
 of rubbish.* By M. Sage.—This writer gives the  
 name of absorbent earth to that which is found  
 in the bones after calcination, when the *natrum*  
 they contained is separated by washing; and he  
 has observed, that nitre with a non-alkaline basis  
 (*nitre à base non alkaline*) which is procured  
 from the saltpetre of rubbish, has a greater re-

semblance to that formed with this earth of the bones, than to nitre with a basis of calcareous earth.

XXI. *An account of a singular Aurora Borealis observed at Paris February 26, 1777, and of two other remarkable ones on Nov. 3, and Dec. 3 of the same year.* By M. Messier.

The author has added accounts of these phænomena as observed at Nancy, Caen, Berlin, the Hague, Amsterdam, Franeker, Vienna, and other places.

XXII. *Experiments on the Cold of 1776.* By M. M. Bezout, Lavoisier, and Vandermonde.

The cold at Paris appears to have been two degrees (of de Reaumur) greater in 1776 than it was in 1709.

XXIII. *Observations on the refrigerant power of liquors, as well simple as compound.* By M. M. Cadet and Briffon.

XXIV. *Observations on combustion in general.* By M. Lavoisier.—The theory of combustion, which this ingenious philosopher attempts to establish, is briefly as follows: he considers vital air, as he terms it, or what Dr. Priestley would call dephlogisticated air, as being formed of a certain basis combined with the igneous fluid. This basis he supposes to have a greater affinity  
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to the body that is burnt, or some of its principles, than to the igneous fluid; it is therefore disengaged from it, and the igneous fluid separates in the form of flame; so that when a substance is ignited, it is not that which burns, but the air around it.

M. Lavoisier remarks, that in the combustion of bodies four phænomena are constantly observed. 1. There is a disengagement of the matter of fire or light. 2. Bodies can burn only in a single species of air, the vital air just now spoken of. 3. There is a decomposition of this vital air, and the burnt body increases in weight in proportion to the quantity of air destroyed. 4. The body that is burnt is changed into an acid, by the addition of the substance which has increased its weight; so that if sulphur is burnt under a bell, the result is vitriolic acid; if phosphorus, the acid of phosphorus: if charcoal, fixed air, or the chalky aeriform acid. He considers the calcination of metals as being submitted to the same laws, but with this difference, that instead of an acid, we have a particular combination, a metallic calx. He observes, that these different phænomena admit of an easy explanation by Stahl's hypothesis, which supposes phlogiston to be in a fixed state in metals,

sulphur,

fulphur, and all other combustibile bodies, but if one of Stahl's followers were to be called upon to prove its existence, he must necessarily reply, that combustibile bodies contain the matter of fire because they burn, and that they burn because they contain the matter of fire. This, says our author, would be explaining combustion by combustion; he therefore considers the existence of this matter of fire, this phlogiston, in metals, sulphur, &c. as being in reality altogether imaginary. If asked, what he means by the matter of fire? He answers with Franklin, Boerhaave, and some of the ancients, that the matter of fire, or light, is a very subtile, rare, elastic fluid, which furrounds the planet we inhabit, and penetrates with greater or less facility the different bodies that compose it.

Towards the close of his paper, the author presents us with a theory of animal heat. He supposes that the vital air received by the lungs is there decomposed, and that what is expired is fixed air. This decomposition, we are told, takes place, because the basis of the vital air is separated from the igneous fluid, and the latter being thus disengaged produces heat.

XXV. *Remarks on certain diseases of the liver, which are attributed to other organs; and on diseases,*

*eases, the seat of which is commonly though improperly supposed to be in the liver.* By M. Portal.—In feeling the liver it is often found to extend lower than in its natural state, and the physician erroneously considers it as the seat of the disease, when only the right lobe of the lungs is affected. M. Portal relates several cases in which he himself was mistaken in this manner. He observes likewise, that the spleen may be affected in a similar way, by the left lobe of the lungs. In the late Duke de Chaulnes, M. de Bordeu and our author felt a tumour under the false ribs, which they supposed to be the liver, but on dissection that viscus was found to be perfectly sound.

M. Portal takes occasion to notice the jaundice of new-born infants, an affection which he supposes to be owing, not to any disease of the liver, but merely to the bile insinuating itself into the lacteals. Upon passing a ligature round the small intestines of dogs, a little below the opening of the ductus choledochus, he has observed, that in five or six hours the tunica conjunctiva of their eyes has acquired a yellow tinge, and their lacteals have been found filled with bile.

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If the liver is sometimes suspected without reason, it is often, on the other hand, the unsuspected seat of the disease. Our author mentions two cases in which this happened. One of these patients was a woman, who complained of pain in the epigastric region, attended with vomiting. The disorder was treated with bitters and stomachics, but without any good effect, as the patient died of hectic fever. On dissection the stomach was found to be in a healthy state, but the liver was enlarged and diseased. Some years afterwards he applied this observation to the case of the Marchioness d'Epagny, who had been treated for a stomach complaint. She had vomitings, cough, dyspnoea, swelled legs, and hectic fever. Upon examination he found the liver enlarged, and by means of kermes mineral given in small doses, with terra foliata tartari, the patient recovered.

He next treats of hæmorrhage from the ductus choledochus, and mentions one case in which it proved fatal; but he says in general it is so far from being dangerous, that it is useful by preventing inflammation. He speaks of a student, who, after having experienced inflammation and pain in the region of the liver, was relieved by discharging a great quantity of blood



blood by vomit and stool. He likewise relates the case of M. Aublet, a celebrated botanist, who had an enlargement of the spleen, and was carried off by a profuse hæmorrhage from the mouth and anus. On dissection the spleen was found to be as large as a child's head, and the vessels between the spleen and the stomach were dilated, and still pouring blood into the cavity of the stomach.

XXVI. *Botanico-meteorological Observations, made at the castle of Denainvilliers near Pithiviers in Gatinois in 1776.* By M. du Hamel.

XXVII. *Third memoir on different subjects of Natural History and Chemistry.* By M. Montet.

This paper relates to the mineralogy of a part of the Cevennes.

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IV. *Observations on the cure of the Gonorrhœa.* By Samuel Foart Simmons, M. D. Member of the Royal College of Physicians, London; and F. R. S. 8vo. Murray, London, 1780. 70 pages, 1s. 6d.

ALTHOUGH the venereal disease has prevailed in Europe for more than two hundred years, we find men of the greatest eminence in the profession still differing in their opinions

concerning its nature, and in their methods of treating it. In this state of doubt, a publication, like the present, written with candour, and founded on attentive observation, cannot but prove highly acceptable to the medical reader. The author professes to have carefully avoided all speculative reasonings, and to have confined himself wholly to such practical cautions and facts as are derived from his own experience.

X It has lately been suggested, that the gonorrhœa and the lues venerea are different affections, originating from two distinct species of virus. Dr. Simmons contends, that this opinion is ill founded, and observes, that the matter of a chancre introduced into the urethra will generate a gonorrhœa, and that the discharge of a gonorrhœa will produce a chancre, bubo, and lues. Two cases are related in which symptoms of a confirmed lues venerea were brought on by the imprudent suppression of the discharge in a gonorrhœa.

It has been disputed, whether ulceration is ever produced in the urethra by a gonorrhœa, and of course whether an absorption of the matter can take place. It might be supposed that dissection would at once clear up this matter, but this is so far from being the case, that some  
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some of the most celebrated anatomists are found to entertain different opinions on the subject. Our author has opened the urethras of several persons, who had a gonorrhœa at the time of their death, but the appearances were not sufficiently satisfactory to enable him to decide with certainty on the subject. On the other hand he has met with several instances in his dissections, and has seen others in the collections of different anatomists, of urethras that afforded evident marks of cicatrices from ulcers formerly existing in that canal. And when we consider that the discharge in a gonorrhœa is sometimes tinged with blood, and that when this happens, a little blood vessel is no doubt ruptured; he thinks we can have no reason to doubt that an ulceration may, and sometimes does happen in these cases. It is certain—he says—that wherever there is considerable inflammation there will be danger of ulceration. He thinks that slight ulcerations of the urethra may often occur, and be afterwards perfectly obliterated in a similar manner to what happens in the papillæ of the tongue, the tonsils, &c. Such an obliteration, he observes, will the more readily take place in a part like the urethra, defended with mucus

and not exposed to the air, which is known to have no little effect in hardening a cicatrix.

After discussing this point in a very satisfactory manner, Dr. Simmons proceeds to describe the symptoms and progress of the disease with great accuracy, and then points out the means of cure. The principal indications, he observes, are to subdue the inflammation and remove the virus that occasions it.

There are practitioners, who, supposing that the body possesses powers to expel the virus, and that the disease has a certain period to run, through its several stages of progress, acmé, and decline, are for leaving the cure to nature, or at least content themselves with assisting her by an antiphlogistic regimen, gentle evacuations, and the like. That in many cases the disorder admits of a natural cure, Dr. Simmons thinks there can be no doubt; the increased secretion of mucus carrying off the virus faster than it is formed, till at length the infection is wholly removed. But he is of opinion, that in every case by the application of suitable remedies, to the inflamed part, we may shorten the duration of the complaint, and abridge the sufferings of the patient with the same certainty and safety, as we are enabled to remove the effects of an ophthal-

ophthalmia, or any other local inflammation, by proper topical applications.

Dr. Simmons next speaks of the general remedies employed in these cases, such as occasional blood letting, a cooling diet, the liberal use of diluting liquors, and mild purges. Of the first of these, venæsection, he remarks, that it is seldom requisite. He has seen it of use in strong, plethoric patients, when the chordee has been frequent and painful; but he has hardly ever found it necessary to repeat the operation. He observes, that the inflammation in these cases is kept up by the local stimulus of the virus and the urine, so that all that we can expect from venæsection is to moderate the pain and the frequency of erection. In delicate persons he has seen it do harm by increasing irritability and rendering the patient more susceptible of the stimulus. In treating of diet Dr. Simmons points out the advantages of an antiphlogistic regimen, and recommends a free use of mucilaginous liquors, but objects very properly to the use of nitre or cream of tartar on account of their diuretic property. Our view, he observes, being not to promote a preternatural flow of urine (as the virus, being insoluble in water, cannot be washed away by such means) but to render

render that which is secreted as mild and as little stimulating as possible.

He next treats of purgatives, which when administered with prudence he considers as of great use, but it is well known—he observes—that the abuse of this class of remedies in the gonorrhœa has been productive of numerous evils. He advises us to employ gentle laxatives, such as Rochelle salt, manna, soluble tartar, and the like, in a dose sufficient to procure only two or three stools, and repeated only every two or three days. The daily use of the purgative electaries, that are still given by some practitioners, serve only to keep up a continual irritation on the bladder, and of course to prolong the inflammation. Formerly it was a pretty general practice to give a large dose of calomel at bedtime, three or four times a week, and to put it off the next morning with a strong dose of the *pilula coccie*, or some other drastic purge. Our author observes, that as the constant effect of a violent purge is to promote absorption from every cavity, the venereal virus was by this means frequently carried into the system, and produced a confirmed lues; or, if the patient escaped this evil, he at least found himself troubled with an obstinate gleet, and, perhaps, his



his constitution materially injured. He adds also, that violent purging often occasions strangury, hernia humoralis, and other troublesome symptoms.

The topical remedies that are used in gonorrhœa consist chiefly of various sorts of injections, the ingredients of which are extremely various; but Dr. Simmons is of opinion, that their modes of operation may in general be referred to their mucilaginous and sedative, or to their detergent, stimulating, and astringent qualities. He observes, that in the hands of skilful practitioners great advantages may doubtless be derived from the use of these remedies; but on the other hand, that the improper and unseasonable administration of them may prove a source of irreparable mischief to the patient.

Dr. Simmons points out the advantages and disadvantages of the several kinds of injections, and gives us a variety of practical cautions concerning the use of each, for which we must refer our readers to the work itself. Speaking of mercurial injections, he observes, that they have all of them more or less of astringency, and it is solely to this property that he ascribes their effects, as he supposes that the idea of their correcting the venereal virus was originally intro-

introduced, and has been continued upon mistaken principles. He observes, that calomel, mixed with the mucus discharged in a gonorrhœa, has no more power in destroying the infectious properties of that mucus, than cerusse or any other preparation would have; that a diluted solution of sublimate, injected into the urethra, will, like a solution of verdegris, or blue vitriol, or any other styptic, constringe the mouths of the lacunæ; but that this is all it will do, as it will never lessen the infectious property of the virus. He contends, that mercury has no power over the venereal virus, until it has been introduced into the body, and undergone certain changes, with which we are and probably shall ever remain unacquainted.

In cases of gonorrhœa whenever our author has administered mercury internally, it has seldom been with a view to expedite the cure, but merely to obviate the danger of absorption. When the infection has been apparently slight, and the inflammation and other symptoms trifling, he has ventured to proceed without the assistance of mercury. On the other hand, whenever the discharge was considerable, the inflammation violent, or the seat of the disease high up in the urethra, he has constantly judged it  
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adviseable to give small doses of calomel or of the mercurial pill of the Edinburgh Dispensatory. When there is no chancre or bubo, no appearance, in short, that the infection is likely to be carried into the system, he thinks it would be imprudent to administer corrosive sublimate, or any other of the more acrid preparations of mercury.

After having treated very fully on the general remedies employed in the cure of the gonorrhœa, Dr. Simmons proceeds to speak of hernia humoralis, chordee, bubo, phymosis, and paraphymosis, chancres, strictures of the urethra, and gleet.

He considers the hernia humoralis as being merely the effect of irritation and of increased inflammation. He observes that in the greater number of cases the inflammation is confined to the vas deferens and epididymis, the testicle itself being seldom affected. So little connection has it with the flow from the urethra, that we are told it sometimes comes on during the continuance of the discharge. Suspension of the scrotum, an horizontal posture, venæsection, warm bathing, and cold applications, such as cloths dipped in vinegar, to the part, are the

general means of cure recommended by our author in cases of this sort.

In chordee he has often experienced the good effects of leeches applied near to the seat of inflammation, but he observes, that the best method is to obviate the complaint by confining the penis in such a manner as to prevent erection. He speaks of a spasmodic chordee which sometimes remains after all the other symptoms of gonorrhoea have disappeared, and goes off and returns at times for the space of several months. In general he has found this troublesome complaint give way to a liberal use of the Peruvian bark sooner than to any other remedy.

In treating of buboes Dr. Simmons observes, that when a tumour of this sort has once begun to form, it is the opinion of the generality of practitioners, that its suppuration ought to be encouraged, lest by dispersing it the matter be carried into the system, and so produce a confirmed lues. He offers several observations on this subject, which seem to prove beyond a doubt that such an event is much more likely to happen by promoting, than by preventing the suppuration of the tumour. As the most effectual means of dispersing it he recommends cold applications to the part; but the most powerful  
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remedies, he observes, in such cases, are vomits. As a further proof that mercury acts only by its stimulus, we are told, that mercurial unktion rubbed on the inside of the thigh will frequently increase the inflammation, and of course hasten suppuration, and promote the very end it is intended to prevent.

In opening a bubo our author prefers a caustic to the knife, but he has generally found that when the patient has been of a good habit of body, and the tumour has matured quickly, it has, when suffered to break of itself, healed sooner than it usually does when opened either by caustic or the knife.

In the treatment of a chancre, if it is small, and without any considerable inflammation, he advises the touching it repeatedly with the lunar caustic, so that the sore shall throw off sloughs. By this process, he observes, we *destroy* the venereal virus, instead of *repelling* it, which might be the case if the caustic were not of sufficient activity to produce a slough, for in that case it would only stimulate, and of course serve to throw the virus into the habit. He asserts, that the blue ointment when applied to a chancre has no other property than any other unctuous substance would have, except what it owes to

its stimulus; and that red precipitate in a similar case will act only as blue vitriol or any other escharotic would do. Although in the greater number of cases chancres are at first only local affections, Dr. Simmons thinks it prudent to guard against the possibility of the virus infecting the habit by giving mercurials internally.

Our author supposes the existence of caruncles in the urethra to be a very rare occurrence. He considers a stricture or contraction of some part of the canal as being the most general cause of the obstruction. He thinks, that the cure of this stricture by bougies depends solely on their producing a gradual distension of the membrane. In the work itself the reader will find a great number of useful remarks on the management of bougies. Dr. Simmons has sometimes met with cases of stricture that were only temporary, and seemingly owing to a spasmodic affection from increased irritability. This spasmodic stricture, like the spasmodic chordee, generally gave way to the bark.

Dr. Simmons concludes his work with some remarks on gleans, in the cure of which, when there is no reason to suspect any venereal taint, we are advised to employ astringent injections. It will be necessary, we are told, to attend at  
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the same time to the general health of the patient, and to recommend such remedies as will tend to strengthen the system. When there has been no tendency to inflammation he has experienced good effects from large doses of the balsam of copaiva, and he once saw a complaint of this sort removed by applying a blister to the perinæum after it had resisted a variety of remedies.

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V. *A new and easy method of applying a tube for the cure of the fistula lachrymalis.* By Jonathan Wathen, surgeon, F. A. S. 4to. Cadell, London, 1781. 16 pages, with a copper-plate, 1s.

**I**N cases of fistula lachrymalis, where the disorder has been of long continuance, and the obstruction is considerable, surgeons are now pretty generally of opinion that an opening must be made into the sac; in order to admit a tent of lead, or some other solid substance, into the duct. The tent, whatever it be, must be continued through the duct, and left there for the space of two months or more; to prevent, if possible, a return of the obstruction. This method, however, is found by experience to be attended with great uncertainty, as the dis-

disorder is frequently apt to return, in consequence of a fresh swelling of the membrane which lines the duct, or of a sponginess of the bones themselves by which the duct is formed. The author of the work before us thinks he has remedied this imperfection in the present mode of treatment, by introducing a hollow tube made of gold, silver, or lead, into the lachrymal duct. This idea was suggested to him by observing that metals, not liable to rust, may safely lodge in any part of the body, for years, and even for life, without the least detriment. He is aware that Heister long ago recommended the introduction of a metal tube in cases of this sort; but Heister conveyed his tube through a perforation of the os unguis, and of course his method was very different from that which is here recommended.

Mr. Wathen considers gold as the most eligible metal for the tube, because it is the most easy to be preserved in a state of purity, which is the most important quality to be observed, whatever the metal be: and he prefers this or silver to lead, chiefly on account of their firmer texture, which must render a tube, made of either of them, less liable to be affected by any pressure it may receive.

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The tube is constructed in the following manner: Its shape is somewhat conical to prevent its descent into the nose; and it is made sufficiently long, to reach from the upper portion of the bony duct, to its aperture below the os spongiosum.

To introduce it more easily, it is furnished with a style, nearly as long as a common probe; the lower end of which is rounded, so as that, passing through the tube, it may exactly fill the aperture at the small end: and it is prevented from passing further, by a shoulder of the same size with the outside of the tube.

The tube is held upon the style by a doubled thread, which passes through a small hole on one side of its upper or larger aperture, and is continued to a ring at the upper end of the style. By fastening this thread to the ring, the style and tube become one instrument, capable of being introduced and extracted at pleasure; and possessing all the power of a probe.

By means of this the operator, we are told, may be enabled to examine the state of the disease, and to judge with the greatest precision of the diameter of the duct, and consequently of the proper size of the tube. For, as the duct in persons of different ages, &c. will vary, both in  
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diameter and length, there must be a proportional difference in the tube; for this reason our author recommends it to the operator to provide himself with styles and tubes of different sizes. He observes, that if the tube is too large, it cannot be introduced; and if too small it will be liable to slip through the lower opening of the duct into the nose; again, that if it rises too high, it may press against the sides of the sac, and thus close the orifice, through which the tears should pass; or that if, on the other hand, it comes down too low, it will project beyond the inferior extremity of the duct, and may produce a very troublesome titillation. When the tube is found to fit exactly, the thread, which was passed through the ring at the upper end of the style, being tied in a knot, at about an inch from the top of the tube, the longer portion of it, above the knot, is directed to be cut off. By this the style will be disengaged, so that it may be extracted with ease, leaving the tube behind, with the thread hanging out of the wound.

When the tube is fixed Mr. Wathen usually passes, by syringe, some simple liquor through it into the nose, as a proof of its being so placed that it will answer the intended purpose. The  
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opening made in the sac might be intirely closed in a few days, but he thinks it right to leave the thread in for about a week, and then, if the tears, absorbed by the puncta, are conveyed by the tube to the nose, he extracts it by cutting one side of it with the scissars, and drawing the other out. The little orifice through which the threads pass will be closed, we are told, in a few days, so that a disorder, which had continued for months, and perhaps years, may be perfectly cured within the short space of a week.

Mr. Wathen first performed this operation on two patients, the eldest of whom was not more than eleven years old. In both of them the disorder was of considerable standing; and in the elder had risen to such a heighth, as to occasion very distressing apprehensions. In one of these cases the tube passed but with little difficulty; in the other, the duct being more obstructed, the introduction was more troublesome and painful. In the latter, however, the uneasiness soon went off after the operation was finished. From the time of fixing the tube, the tears, instead of falling down the cheek, as they had been used to do, passed through the artificial channel into the nose. At the end of a week the threads were removed, and the orifice, thro'

which they passed, was healed in a day. A cure was consequently effected in both cases.

Since that time both our author and his partner, Mr. Ware, have repeated the operation on several persons of different ages, and have uniformly succeeded in all.

After this account of his success in this way, Mr. Wathen proceeds to obviate the objections that may be made to this process. One is, that the tube may move upwards and irritate the sac; the other, that it may pass downwards into the nose, and be either discharged or insensibly swallowed. In both these instances the operation may be supposed to fail. In reply, the author observes, that the tube, if of a proper size and well fixed, can neither ascend nor descend, but that even if it should chance to rise, it may easily be put down again by the finger. This, he says, will always be found a present remedy, and may be repeated as often as there shall be occasion, till the tube has been long enough in the duct to secure the continuance of the natural passage; after which it may be taken out by incision, or pushed downward into the nose by the probe.

With regard to the other accident to which the patient is supposed to be liable, Mr. Wathen  
remarks,



remarks, that he has met with only one case, in which the tube has been discharged by the nose, whereas he has known several, in which a plummet, or leathern bougie, has passed that way; and yet not a single instance has occurred to him in which either the plummet, tent, or tube has been swallowed. But should the latter circumstance happen, as the metals, of which these tubes are composed, are not in the least hurtful, the quantity used in them small, and they are well polished, he thinks it impossible that any harm should ensue. He further adds, that the tube, although it should fail of its original design, as an artificial duct, appears still to be much more certain in its effect, and upon every account greatly preferable to the leaden tent or bougie; as it may remain longer, with less inconvenience, than either of those substances within the lachrymal duct.

Mr. Wathen concludes his performance with a particular account of the case in which the tube passed through the nose. The patient was a young man, 22 years of age, who had been afflicted with the disorder from early infancy, and had nearly lost the sight of one eye in consequence of repeated inflammations, which the fistula had occasioned. The common mode of

treating the disorder, by the introduction of a bougie, had been tried without effect. Our author passed the tube into the duct with great ease, and the patient continued well for about a fortnight, but at the end of that time the tube rose in the duct. This was remedied, for a time, by pressing the tube down with the finger, but it was not long before the course of the tears was again obstructed, though the instrument did not rise at all. Recollecting that it had passed into the duct with great ease, and that instead of rising, it might now be sunk too low, Mr. Wathen made a second opening into the sac in order to remove it; and accordingly, on examination he found it was far advanced in the duct towards the nose. The patient discharged this tube into his handkerchief, and a second tube being introduced, particular attention was given that it might fit the duct more exactly than the former one had done. The tears immediately resumed their natural course, and continued to pass freely through the tube for a considerable time, but at length this second tube came out on blowing the nose. This circumstance the author ascribes to the enlargement of the natural passage, on its being perfectly healed, as the patient has remained perfectly free from his complaint ever since.

## SECTION II.

## ESSAYS AND OBSERVATIONS.

- I. *Some remarks on the Remitting fevers of the West Indies.* By Dennis Ryan, M. D. *Communicated in a letter to Dr. Simmons, F. R. S. and by him to the Society.* Read Sept. 17th, 1781.

**I**T was my intention, on my first arrival in this country, to keep a regular journal of every important case I should meet with: for I was confident that such a collection of facts, made without any bias or partiality for any prevailing theory or speculations, would be the best means of giving a just idea of the diseases of this climate; but the state of health I have been in, and my having always had too great a number of patients under my care, put it out of my power to execute that plan. However, a few detached remarks and observations may not be altogether unacceptable. It must be allowed, that for some months past, this island has afforded an ample field for medical inquiries. In the beginning of last August about two thousand eight hundred troops arrived here from England. Above four hundred of them were sent on shore sick:

sick ; and so great has been the mortality amongst them for the first two or three months, that of all who, during that time, have been sent to the three military hospitals in the neighbourhood of Kingston, the one half has scarcely recovered. This may appear strange to any one who is acquainted only with European hospitals, where in general not above one in twenty-five dies \*. But the causes of mortality in this instance are sufficiently obvious.

When the troops were first put on board the transports, in the month of March, many of them were affected with dysentery and putrid fever. From that time till they were landed here, about five months elapsed, so that in this space the diseases with which they put to sea, became more violent and fatal; and the situation of men confined so long on board crowded ships brought on them a variety of scorbutic complaints. Hence many of them died on the passage, and a great number of those, who were landed at Kingston, were exhausted with repeated attacks of flux and fever.

Besides this, when we arrived in Kingston,

\* The Hotel Dieu in Paris is an exception to this, for there about one out of six dies.

there

there were no proper accommodations for the reception of the sick; and it was impossible to keep them from drinking new rum. The very judicious and simple plan of regimental hospitals recommended by Robert Adair, Esq. inspector-general of hospitals, was rejected for that of a general hospital: hence the sick were always too much crowded together in one place, and several lost the opportunity of being cured whilst they were transferred to the general hospital, from the place where they first fell sick; but now, though late, the propriety of Mr. Adair's plan is seen, and it is adopted.

To the above causes may be justly added the pernicious effects of heat in this climate, which is often intolerable to people in perfect health. How far Europeans, labouring under the most violent diseases, may suffer from this source, you may perhaps be able to form some idea from the few following observations.

The degrees of heat in an hospital tent at  
Pultney Lodge Green near Kingston.

Days.	Hours.	Degrees of Fahrenheit's Thermometer.
August 22d	at 9 A. M.	92
————	12 ———	96
————	3 P. M.	89
<hr/>		
August		

Days.		Hours.	Degrees of Fahrenheit's Thermometer.
August 23d	at	8 A. M.	89
_____		12 —	95
_____		1 P. M.	93
_____		4 P. M.	95
_____ 24th	at	6 A. M.	75½
_____		11 A. M.	89
_____		1 P. M.	93½
_____ 25th	at	8 A. M.	90
_____		10 A. M.	93½
_____		12 —	94
_____		3½ P. M.	93
_____ 26th	at	6 A. M.	77
_____		1 P. M.	92½
_____ 27th	at	1 P. M.	95
_____		4 P. M.	89
_____ 30th	at	12 —	95
_____ 31st	at	10 A. M.	92

The thermometer was suspended in the middle of the tent, and there was a free admission of air on all sides.

It is justly observed, that a man on his first coming to this country must be often at a loss how



how to proceed, particularly in the treatment of fevers; notwithstanding he may be well acquainted with all that has been hitherto written on the diseases of tropical climates.

The fevers here may be justly said to be of a Proteiform nature, so great is the variety, and so many are the appearances which they exhibit. They frequently change the type of Quotidians and Tertians for that of the remittent or continued kind, and in a very little time prove fatal. And it sometimes happens, that the first and second paroxysms are so slight, that the patient does not think it worth while to take notice of them, though the next fit is immediately attended with symptoms of death. I have had several cases of this kind, where, after the second or third fit, the hands and feet became quite cold, and notwithstanding that the patients lived for a day or two after, I found it impossible to restore the heat, or prevent death, although blisters were applied, and wine and bark, and even brandy and water given in considerable quantities.

Danger is sometimes preceded by circumstances which in general forebode no evil. A man upwards of fifty years of age, after recovering from some complaints for which he was

first sent to the hospital, told me one day that he was remarkably drowsy, and could not keep himself from sleeping. Of this I took no notice. The following day he made the same complaint; but on his informing me, that in other respects he was healthy and regular, I only told him there was nothing to hinder him from indulging his propensity to sleep. But the next morning, to my great surprize, I found him speechless, and affected with startings and convulsions in his hands and arms, and in a day or two after he died.

On the contrary, in other cases the patient seems to be at once seized with symptoms of the most dangerous tendency. Thus I was informed one morning that a soldier, whilst he went about attending the sick as orderly man, spoke incoherently, and seemed not to be right in his senses; that he was well the day before, and that there was no reason to think that he was in liquor. On sending for him, I observed that he was really delirious, and every means I tried to recover him proved ineffectual.

Most of the fevers which I had occasion to treat were remittents, and they were commonly attended with bilious vomitings. The most violent instances of this kind that occurred to me,

me, were three cases, which, nearly about the same time, were produced by intoxication. In all three the retching and vomiting were so incessant and obstinate, almost from the very beginning, that nothing would remain on the stomach; and when they swallowed any thing, they were seized with the most violent spasms and convulsions. The whole body was agitated by these, for about the space of a minute, and particularly the neck and face: and death soon put an end to the scene. I remember that two of these patients were sent from the cook-room, where, whilst I attended Pultney Lodge hospital, two or three were every week seized with fevers; and the soldiers, who were obliged to go every day to Kingston for provisions for the sick, in general fared no better: which should be a caution to the commanders of regiments in the West Indies, always to employ negroes to dress the provisions for the sick, and undergo every other drudgery that attends an hospital.

It is almost unnecessary to observe, that the method of treating fevers in Europe will by no means suit this climate. There is in general an indication to discharge bile from the system; and hence the use of emetics might seem to be indicated; but in many cases they are not only

proper, but highly dangerous; for by increasing the retching and vomiting which are already present, they often render it altogether impossible for the stomach to retain the medicines, which are absolutely necessary to be employed. Hence it becomes an object to evacuate the bile by the intestines. And where the stomach is not too irritable, and the retching not severe, tartar emetic in small doses will promote a tendency this way, besides its good effects in determining to the surface, and bringing on a remission; but in general other laxatives are necessary.

Though I have had upwards of three hundred cases under my care, since my arrival here, I have not so much as once had recourse to the lancet. So great was the tendency to prostration of strength and putrefaction, that I considered not only as unnecessary, but even dangerous. The most robust patients that I had, recovered very well without it; nor can I recollect more than one single case, the symptoms of which towards the end gave me reason to think that some blood might have been taken away with advantage in the commencement of the fever. Dr. Cawley, who attended another of the military hospitals near Kingston, informed me that he seldom or never had recourse to venæsection,  
and

and that most of the patients who were then affected with the yellow fever, were such as, previous to their being sent to the general hospital, had been blooded by other practitioners.

I do not however mean to insinuate, that in the West India fevers bleeding is totally to be exploded. My observations apply wholly to men who had been harrassed with a variety of hardships during a tedious passage from Europe, and exposed to several inconveniencies after their landing. Their situation was particular, and required a particular mode of treatment. When persons of full, plethoric, and strong habits are attacked with symptoms of a violent fever, bleeding is absolutely necessary; but it is always to be used with great caution, and seldom after the second day from the beginning of the fever.

As soon as the remission takes place, all our hopes must concur in the liberal use of bark and wine. It is even frequently dangerous to wait for the remission; and I have sometimes thought that great advantage was derived from giving a decoction of the bark, with some spiritus mindereri, or a small quantity of tartar emetic, whilst the fever was present, and, when it had ceased, the bark in substance. Camphire  
is

is likewise exceedingly proper and useful, both as an antispasmodic and antiseptic.

But, upon the whole, it is impossible to lay down any general rules which will apply in every case; and it requires the greatest exertion of judgment and attention, in order to adopt such measures as the circumstances of each particular case may require.

I beg leave to send you the following cases, as they may serve to illustrate some of the observations which I have made above, and afford a specimen of the active practice, which, in my opinion, is often necessary to be adopted in this country, where the rapid progress of the disease calls at once for all the efforts of art to rescue the patient from impending death.

C A S E I. October 21st. at 4 P. M.

William Wright, aged 30, was seized two hours ago with coldness and shivering, which were followed by some heat. At present he is in a cold sweat, and his pulse is so low, that the pulsations can scarcely be perceived; his hands and feet feel cold; he complains of griping pains in his abdomen, and has had two or three stools, which were somewhat bloody, and frequently vomited bile since this attack began. He was so well this morning, that, at his own desire,



desire, he was appointed orderly-man to attend the sick; but he now says that he had a slight agueish fit last night, and another the night before, and that he concealed them, expecting that they would cease without any remedy.

Capiat omni semihora pulveris corticis Peruviani drachmam unam, cum vini uncia unica. Injiciatur statim enema ex aquâ tepida, et foveatur abdomen calida infusione florum chamæmelorum. Proinde, applicetur vesicatorium inter scapulas, et, ℞. liquoris *limonade* dicti, vini, partes æquales, utatur hac mistura pro potu communi, sed tepida fiat.

22d—He took six drachms of bark with wine yesterday evening, after which he fell asleep, and slept till about eleven at night; since that time he has taken nine drachms of bark, and drank a quart of wine and lemonade. The blister was applied, and had the desired effect. When he began to sleep last night his extremities gradually grew warm, and a general profuse sweat ensued. At present he feels no uneasiness or pain in his abdomen. This morning he had two copious stools of a greenish colour; skin cool; pulse quick and small; tongue clean; he complains of thirst; has vomited twice this morning.

Capiat

Capiat singulis horis pulveris corticis Peruviani drachmam unam cum vino, ut antea. Repetatur potus communis heri prescriptus pro re nata.

23d—He has taken two ounces of bark since yesterday, and had five or six stools without much pain or griping; pulse about 80 and pretty full; thirst less.

Capiat pulveris corticis Peruviani drachmam secunda quaque hora; et habeat indies vini libram unam.

24th—Continues to recover.

Capiat pulveris corticis Peruviani semunciam indies tantummodo.

Free from complaints.—Intermittantur medicamenta.

About the middle of September I had a patient, who, after labouring for three days under a continued fever, was seized with very nearly the same symptoms that are described in the above case, but he was affected with frequent bloody stools. However, I ordered him the bark and wine in the same manner; the bloody stools soon ceased, and he recovered, though eight and forty hours elapsed before his hands and feet began to recover their natural heat.

C A S E

C A S E II. October 27th.

John Perkinhorn, aged 52, complains of a great weakness and head-ach, with gripes and looseness. The day before yesterday he had a fit of the ague. He has been in the hospital ten weeks for a variety of complaints, from which of late he has been recovering.

Capiat vesperi pulverem emeticum.

28th—Is better in every respect.

Capiat indies pulveris corticis Peruviani semunciam et pilulam anodynam vesperi si alvus laxa fuerit.

November 2d—He had the ague yesterday; takes his bark; staggers much when he sits up, and has tremulous motions in his hands and arms; skin hot; pulse quick.

℞ Julapii camphorati uncias sex,

Spiritus Mindereri uncias duas. M.

Capiat unciam singulis horis. Applicetur vesicatorium dorso.

Capiat etiam pulveris corticis Peruviani drachmam unam singulis horis, sed alternatim cum mistura supra præscripta.

3d—Took his medicines regularly, and his blister rose well; convulsive motions gone; skin cool; pulse regular; belly natural.

Capiat pulveris corticis Peruviani drachmam singulis horis, cum vini uncia una—intermittatur mistura cum camphora.

4th—He has taken twelve drachms of bark since yesterday morning; is again subject to the staggering and convulsive motions, and can make no answer when spoken to; tongue dry and parched; pulse strong and quick; heat greater than natural; had two stools last night, and an involuntary one this morning.

Continuentur cortex et vinum; et capiat singulis horis julapii camphorati semunciam; capiat etiam haustum sequentem vesperi.

℞ Tinct. Thebaicæ guttas triginta,  
 ——— Japonicæ drachmas duas,  
 Aquæ menthæ unciam unam,  
 ——— fontanæ uncias tres,  
 Syrupi simplicis quantum sufficit.  
 Misce ut fiat haustus.

5th—Has taken his medicines regularly, and slept well last night; the convulsive motions have almost ceased, and he can make distinct answers; has called for the bed-pan twice this morning; heat natural; pulse about 80; tongue moist.

Continuentur julapium camphoratum et cortex; habeat indies vini libras duas.

6th—

6th—Has taken an ounce of bark since yesterday, and the camphorated julap; has had about ten loose stools since yesterday evening; pulse about 70; heat natural; tongue dry.

Continuentur medicamenta ut heri; sed repetatur haustus anodynus supra præscriptus.

7th—Has taken an ounce of bark since yesterday; has had but two stools since last night; pulse full, and about 70; tongue clean and moist.

Continuentur medicamenta ut antea.

8th—Seems to recover.—Intermittatur julapium camphoratum, continentur cætera.

11th—Complains of nothing but weakness. Intermittatur cortex; habeat indies vini libram unam.

Jamaica,  
Dec. 12th, 1781.

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II. *Remarks on the nature and treatment of Intermittents, as they occurred at Hampstead in the spring of 1781. Extracted from a letter addressed to the Society by Mr. Thomas Hayes, surgeon at Hampstead. Read October 8, 1781.*

**A**BOUT the beginning of January 1781, the measles were very rife in Hampstead and its environs. In the greater number of cases they ended in very troublesome intermit-  
L 1 2                      tents,

tents, that gave way only to bleeding, and an antiphlogistic treatment; the bark, when administered, having been generally found to do harm.

These measles continued to appear in different parts of the neighbourhood till the month of June, when the nature of the disease seemed to be materially changed; for after a purge or two the bark generally succeeded, while bleeding had uniformly a bad effect.

In the month of February a great number of children and adults were attacked with all the symptoms of common intermittents, but the liver seemed to be more than ordinarily affected. Such as were athletic were usually seized with uncommon violence, having a strong pulse, accompanied with delirium, erratic pains in the region of the liver, chest, shoulders, &c.

Great marks of plethora appeared in the greater number of the patients, and evident symptoms of inflammatory diathesis pointed out bleeding as the first remedy to be employed. I had generally observed, that vernal agues were relieved by it, whilst it almost always did harm in autumnal ones; but now, much to my surprise, it very seldom was attended with advantage; and a second bleeding evidently prolonged  
the



the disease, as I frequently remarked in those patients who had applied to country bleeders and repeated that operation before they had other assistance. The blood taken away was not very fizy; but the crassamentum was blacker than usual, and the serum more yellow and viscid than common. A vomit was always given, and sometimes repeated; the saline mixture, joined with emetic tartar, and a purge were interposed till the intermissions were perfect and distinct, that the bark might be given with safety and benefit, a caution always to be attended to before it is administered. Notwithstanding all this care, double, nay, treble the usual quantity of bark, given in a variety of forms, did not remove the disease, or prevent a return of it: myrrh, snake-root, &c. were joined to it, but with no better success. If it stopped for a week or two, it returned, though the bark was continued.

Finding that these difficulties were pretty general, I adopted the following mode of treatment, which, though it has not the claim of novelty to recommend it, will perhaps not be deemed unworthy the attention of the Society on account of the success that attended it. Several of my friends to whom I recommended it, found it equally efficacious.

I began

I began by giving an emetic of ipecacoanha and emetic tartar in the evening, which was repeated if necessary a few days after. If the disease was accompanied with great marks of plethora, or inflammatory diathesis, I took away a few ounces of blood; but the number of patients who required this evacuation was very small, and I do not recollect a single case in which I had occasion to repeat it. After the emetic I prescribed half a drachm of sal Polychrest to be taken night and morning for a week or ten days, and if the fever was high, the patients took three or four spoonfuls of a saline mixture with calx of antimony several times a day. The fits were suffered to go on for several days. In some the fever assumed the type of a quotidian, in others that of a tertian, or double tertian. By pursuing this method the fits became gradually less, and the general health of the patient got better, and often well without any other remedy. Several had recourse to a decoction of bark with elixir of vitriol, and the use of a chalybeate spring, of which we have a remarkable good one at this place, and obtained perfect health.

But some patients, who had neglected themselves in the beginning, or taken the bark prematurely,

maturely, got into a train of ill health from obstructed viscera, &c. and were obliged to have recourse to more active medicines, of which none succeeded so well as crude quicksilver carefully triturated with mucilage of gum arabic, and given in doses of ten, fifteen, or twenty grains night and morning, the patient drinking after each dose a quarter of a pint of a strong decoction of *Taraxacum*, in which was dissolved a drachm of soluble tartar. The dose of the latter was diminished if the medicine purged the patient; this method was pursued for a week or ten days, after which the following pills generally completed a cure in a short time:

℞ Aloes. socot.

Gum. ammoniac.

— myrrh.

Calc. antimon. illot.

Sapon. venet. āā ʒj.

Ol. chamæm. chym. gutt. xx.

Extract. gentian. q. s. ut fiat massa, ex  
cujus singulis drachmis formentur pilulæ xij.

Of these pills the patient took two, three, or four twice or three times a day, washing down each dose with four ounces of an infusion of centaury or chamomile flowers.

*Hampstead,*  
Sept. 8th, 1781.

SECTION

## SECTION III.

## MEDICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL NEWS.

**T**HE Society of Arts and Sciences at Utrecht have proposed the following question for a prize of thirty ducats: "Is the planting of trees in great towns and their environs salutary, or hurtful to the health of the inhabitants; Do their exhalations purify or corrupt the air; and what species of trees do the most, or the least good or harm? The dissertations are to be sent to M. Van-Haesten, Secretary to the Society, before the 1st of December 1782.

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A man, who was bit by a mad dog in the lip May 28, 1781, was attacked June 13th with the usual symptoms of hydrophobia. He was carried to the Hotel Dieu at Paris June 15th, where he died the same day. After his death the whole course of the vertebral canal was carefully inspected, and the membranes appeared to be in an inflamed state. This was done at the request of Dr. Salin, a physician at Paris, who is of opinion, that in hydrophobia the medulla spinalis is the principal seat of the disease.

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The

The senate of Venice have lately founded an Academy of Sciences at Padua. This city, which has long been famous for its university, had likewise two academies; that of the *Ricovrati* for the *belles lettres*, which was of long standing, and that of agriculture, which was of a more recent date. Both these institutions have been suppressed in favour of the new academy.

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The bark of the *Daphne Laureola*, or *spurge laurel*, macerated in vinegar and applied to the skin, has of late been much employed in France and some other parts of Europe in cases where the use of issues has been indicated. This acrid substance soon inflames and excoriates the skin, and if occasionally renewed keeps up a very copious discharge. In the Transactions of the Academy of Sciences at Mentz for 1780, Dr. Rumpel recommends for a similar purpose the bark of Mezereon, which is another plant of the same genus. He relates several cases of ophthalmia, rheumatism, epilepsy, &c. in which it proved efficacious, when applied in the manner above described.

M. Dombay, an ingenious French botanist, who has been employed in Peru ever since the year 1777, for the purpose of collecting the plants and other natural productions of that country, has sent home specimens of a vegetable wool, which is shorter than that of the Lamas, but of the same colour. It is produced by a species of *Cactus Spinofus* L. He has likewise analysed the Thermal waters at Ceuchin near the Andes. When he wrote last to his friends in Europe, he was on the point of setting out on a botanic expedition to the source of the river of Amazons, where he expected to meet with the tree that produces the elastic gum. Although the country round Lima is parched for want of rain, he has sent to the King of Spain three hundred coloured drawings of plants collected in that neighbourhood, many of which will be new to European botanists.

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The Academy of St. Petersburg have given a premium to M. Kratzenstein, professor of chemistry at Copenhagen, for his very ingenious invention of a wind instrument that imitates distinctly the sound of the vowels, and even some articulate sounds.

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At



At a general meeting of the physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries of Liverpool on the 2d of October, it was unanimously resolved to recommend General Inoculation at stated periods to the inhabitants of that town. Among other reasons for this benevolent proposal, it was observed, that the natural small pox has proved fatal to more than one in five of all the children born in Liverpool, according to the observations of a physician of great eminence, lately an inhabitant of that place, and that plans of general inoculation have lately been successfully executed at Chester and Leeds.

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On Monday the 1st of October the Royal College of Physicians held their annual meeting for the choice of a President and other officers, when the following gentlemen were elected:

Dr. William Pitcairn, *President*.

Dr. Robert Thomlinson, *Treasurer*.

Sir Noah Thomas, Knt. }

Dr. William Cadogan, }

Sir Richard Jebb, Bart. }

Dr. Donald Monro, }

*Censors.*

Dr. Henry Revell Reynolds, *Register*.

## PROMOTIONS.

Dr. James Harvey to be a Candidate, and Dr. William Keir and Dr. William Paine to be Licentiates of the College of Physicians, London.

*October 23.* Mr. Alexander Lindsay to be surgeon to the Royal Irish regiment of artillery.

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## DEATHS.

Lately, at Dublin, Mr. Alexander Cunningham, senior surgeon to the Meath Hospital in that city. He had just finished the operation of lithotomy on a patient in the hospital, and extracted a stone of unusual bulk, when he fell suddenly dead at the feet of his friends, who were complimenting him with great eagerness on his dexterity.

*Sept. 1.* At Old Melrose, Roxburghshire, Dr. John Caverhill, member of the College of Physicians, London, F. R. S. and author of the following works: "Observations on the Knowledge of the Ancients in the East Indies." Phil. Trans. vol. lvii. — "A Treatise on the Cause and Cure of the Gout." 8vo. London, 1769. "Experiments on the Causes  
" of

" of Heat in living Animals." 8vo. ib. 1770.  
 " A Dissertation on Nervous Ganglions and  
 " Nervous Plexus." 8vo. ibid. 1772.

*Sept.* 10th. Suddenly, of the gout in his stomach, Mr. William Cooper, surgeon to the Infirmary at Shrewsbury.—17th. At South End, near Dagenham, Essex, Dr. John Letch, F. R. and A. S.—18th. At Llanfylling, Montgomeryshire, Mr. Davies, surgeon and apothecary.—28th. At Holland, in Lancashire, Richard Meyrick, M. D.

*October* 9th. At Nottingham, Mr. Edward Merry, apothecary.—10th. In Ludgate-street, London, Mr. Alexander Dalmahoy, member of the Company of Apothecaries.—12th. In Charles-street, St. James's Square, Dr. Thomas Brooke, fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and physician to St. Luke's Hospital.

## SECTION IV.

### MONTHLY CATALOGUE.

1. **T**HE Medical Pocket Book. Containing a short but plain account of the symptoms, causes, and methods of cure of the diseases incident to the human body; including such

such as require surgical treatment : together with the virtues and doses of medicinal compositions and simples. Extracted from the best authors, and digested into alphabetical order. By *John Elliott*, M. D. 12mo. *Johnson*, London, 1781. 136 pages. 2s.

This compendium will be useful to medical practitioners in general, either by assisting their memory in matters already known, or by affording information to those who have not leisure or opportunity to consult larger works. As a specimen of the author's manner, we shall extract his account of the ague :

“ Symptoms. The fit begins with cold shiverings; a small quick pulse; pain in the back and head; nausea. To these succeed great heat and fever, which terminate in sweats. The urine during the fit, pale, clear, and without sediment; but in the interval, turbid, with a copious sediment of a reddish colour.

In the *Quotidian ague* the fit returns once in a day.

In the *Tertian*, every other day.

In the *Quartan*, the intermission is of two whole days.

Treatment. First give an emetic, and afterwards a gentle cathartic. If the intermissions are  
not

not regular, saline febrifuges should be administered till that objection is removed; then give the bark, in substance ʒj. every two hours during the intermission, adding tinct. theb. or other astringent if it runs off by stool. If the stomach will not bear the powder, give it in decoction, infusion, or the extract in pills. Pulv. fl. chamæm. chalybs. rad. serp. virg. elix. vitr. acid. or the like, may be added according to circumstances. The repetitions may be less frequent after the fit has been missed once or twice. Vitr. cærul. gr. ss. dissolved in ʒj. of proof spirit, and given before the fit, has succeeded in some desperate cases."

2. A Philosophical and Experimental Enquiry into the first and general principles of animal and vegetable life: likewise into atmospherical air, with a minute investigation of the different secondary principles attendant upon each: viz. animal heat, sanguification, animal moisture, age, temperament, &c. &c. &c. with a refutation of Dr. Priestley's doctrine of air; proving by experiment, that the breathing of animals, putrefaction, &c. do not phlogistificate, but dephlogistificate the air; and that the office of that essential organ, the lungs, is not to discharge phlogiston to the air, but to receive it from

from the air. By *Robert Harrington*, of the Corporation of Surgeons, London. 8vo. Cadell, London, 1781. 402 pages.

3. *Presens de Flore à la Nation Françoisé, pour les alimens, les medicamens, l'ornement, l'art veterinaire, les arts & metiers; ou traité historique des plantes qui se trouvent naturellement, dans les différentes provinces du Royaume, rangées suivant le système de M. le Chevalier de Linné, avec tous les details qui les concernent: par M. Buchoz, medecin de Monsieur, &c. i. e. Presents of Flora to the French nation, for aliment, medicine, ornament, the treatment of cattle, arts, and trade; or an historical treatise of the plants that are found in the different provinces of the kingdom, arranged according to the Linnæan system, with all the particulars that relate to them. By M. Buchoz, physician to Monsieur, &c. 4to. vol. i. Paris, 1780. 208 pages.*

4. *Observations sur la nature, les causes, et le traitement de la fièvre lente ou hectique. Par M. Fournier, Docteur en medecine de la faculté de Montpellier, de la Société Royale des Sciences, medecin des Etats Generaux du Duché du Bourgogne. i. e. Observations on the nature, causes,*



causes and treatment of the hectic or slow fever. By *M. Fournier*, M. D. of the faculty of Montpellier, of the Royal Society of Sciences, physician to the States General of the Dutchy of Burgundy, &c. 8vo. Dijon, 1781. 215 pages.

The author of this work professes to give it as the result of sixty years experience. It is divided into two parts, each of which is subdivided into chapters. In the first chapter of the first part he points out the nature, diagnosis, and prognosis of the hectic fever, of which he distinguishes two species. One of these, which he calls idiopathic, he supposes to be owing to a general depravity of the fluids. The other he styles secondary, or symptomatic, because it accompanies all internal, and sometimes even external suppurations. The proximate cause of both these species, he ascribes to an obstruction of what he calls *vaisseaux neuro-lymphatiques*, neuro-lymphatic vessels. The explanation of this singular theory employs his second chapter, in which we meet with a great deal of unintelligible matter. In the third he describes the symptoms of the three stages of hectic fever.

The second part of the work is allotted to the treatment of this fever. M. Fournier does not undertake to treat of every species, but

confines himself chiefly to the pulmonary hectic, to that which is produced by corrosive poisonous substances taken internally, and lastly to the venereal hectic.

He describes the effects of several poisonous medicines administered by quacks. He makes mention of an empiric, named Troublot, who used to cure intermittents by a pill, the basis of which was arsenic. Almost all his patients died hectic a few months after they had been under his care. M. Fournier quotes instances of a similar effect from corrosive sublimate given in the venereal disease.

5. *Catechisme sur les morts apparentes, dites asphyxies, ou instruction sur les manieres de combattre les differentes especes de morts apparentes, par demandes et par responses. Par M. Gardane, Docteur-regent, &c. i. e. Catechism on apparent deaths, commonly called asphyxies, or an account of the methods of treatment in the different species of apparent death, by question and answer. By M. Gardane, Doctor-regent of the Faculty of Physic at Paris, Censor Royal and member of the Academies of Sciences at Montpellier, Nancy, and Marseilles. 8vo. Paris, 1781. 116 pages.*

This performance, which is written in a popular

pular style, is printed at the expence of government.

6. *Introduzione alla medicina pratica, &c. i. e. Introduction to the practice of Physic, by P. A. Gallo, M. D. 8vo. Vezecil, 1779.*

In a preliminary discourse the author offers some remarks on the origin of diseases, the utility of physic, and the education, &c. of physicians. The work itself is divided into four chapters. In the first the author treats of the solids and fluids of the human body, and of the difference of age, sex, &c. after which he points out the mistakes of physicians in inflammatory, and what he calls lymphatic fevers, and then speaks of the nature and treatment of epidemical diseases.

In the second chapter Dr. Gallo after treating of worm fevers, and their remedies, speaks of hectic fever. He ascribes the latter of these to a vitiated state of the lymph, or to obstructions of the mesentery or worms, and is of opinion, that the means of cure are chiefly to be sought for in regimen.

The third chapter is allotted to the diseases that are occasioned by some affection of the solids, by diversity of temperament, the passions of the mind, the use of mercury, different

species of gout and inflammation. In the fourth and last chapter, Dr. Gallo treats of diseases, the cause of which is supposed to exist in the fluids.

7. Discours philosophique sur les trois principes animal, vegetal, & mineral, ou la clef du sanctuaire philosophique. *i. e.* A Philosophical discourse on the three principles, animal, vegetable, and mineral; or a key to the philosophical sanctuary. By *Sabine Stuart de Chevalier*. 12mo. Paris, 1781. 2 vols.

An alchemistical rhapsody.

8. Differtatio Inauguralis de Vasis plantarum speciatim radicem herbamque adeuntibus. Auctore *Joanne Henrico Daniel Moldenharwer*, Regiomonte Boruffo, 4to. Trajecti ad Viadrum, 1779. 85 pages.

9. Tal om Sjukligheten e faelt. *i. e.* A Discourse on the diseases of the army, during the campaigns in Pomerania from 1752 to 1762, read before the Royal Academy of Sciences at Stockholm, on quitting the office of President of that Society, July 21, 1779. By *P. Zetzell*, M. D. member of the College of Physicians at Stockholm, and physician to the Swedish army. 4to. Stockholm, 1779.

This

This work appears to be the result of accurate and extensive observation. The author describes the various situations of the army, and endeavours to ascertain the influence of provisions, cloathing, weather, and the other causes that concur in producing military diseases. He observes, that putrid and intermittent fevers, and dysentery, were the most prevailing diseases. At the beginning of 1759 the troops were attacked in the proportion of one in ten with putrid fever, and of one in thirty with dysentery.

In speaking of cloathing he observes, that too tight cloathing sometimes occasions sudden death. He has seen four soldiers die suddenly from this cause, and three others who were saved with difficulty. From his journal it appears, that the proportion of sick varied from 1 in 20, to 3 in 11, so that in an army of 30,000 men there will upon an average be 2500 sick. He recommends small hospitals.

Dr. Zetzell observes, that the three first years of a war are much more fatal to troops than the following ones, and that in Northern climates the number of sick is always greater in winter and spring than in summer and autumn. But there is no month—he adds—in which in camps there are not cases of chronic rheumatism, apoplexy,

plexy, palsy, epilepsy, phthisis, inflammatory colic, hypochondriasis, tænia, lues, &c. He has observed, that intermittents are more rife when the cold as well as the moisture is moderate; that too moist an atmosphere produces putrid fevers and dysentery; that periodical pains of the head and face are most prevalent when the air is moderately cold and damp, and that long continued rains occasion itch, catarrhs, dropfical complaints, asthma, epilepsy, and hypochondriasis.

The author endeavours to ascertain the parts of the body that are the most frequently wounded in battle. He is convinced that in a battle between two armies, composed of infantry, the upper half of the body is the most in danger, and that for two shot in the belly, three or four will be wounded in the neck or breast, seven in the head, ten in the arms and hands, four in the hips, five in the legs, one in the knee, and two in the feet.

10. Cours complet d'Agriculture, theorique, pratique, economique, et de medecine rurale et veterinaire, suivi d'une methode pour etudier l'agriculture par principes; ou Dictionnaire Universel d'Agriculture, par une Société d'Agriculteurs, et redigé par M. l'Abbé *Rozier*, Prieur.  
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Commendataire de Nanteuil, membre de plusieurs Academies, &c. *i. e.* A Complete Course of Agriculture, theoretical, practical, and oeconomic; and of rural and veterinary physic; to which is added a rational method of studying agriculture; or an Universal Dictionary of Agriculture by a Society of Farmers, arranged by the Abbé *Rozier*, Prior of Nanteuil, and member of several academies. 4to. Paris, 1781. vol. i. 704 pages.

Botany, chemistry, the diseases of cattle, and in short every thing that relates to rural œconomy; is very minutely treated of in this work, which will probably be very voluminous. This first volume includes only part of the letter A, The word *Abeille* (*bée*) alone employs 167 pages.

11. Tentamen Medicum Inaugurale de Viribus Corticis Peruviani, ejusque usu in morbis non febrilibus. Auctore *Joanne Cooke*, Anglo, Reg. Societ. Medic. Edinburg. Socio. 4to. Lugduni Batavorum, 1781. p. 23.

12. Memoire Clinique sur les maladies veneriennes. *i. e.* A Clinical essay on venereal complaints. 8vo. Paris, 1780. 308 pages.

13. Della morte apparente degli annegati. *i. e.* Of the apparent death of drowned persons. By *Anthony*

*Anthony Joseph Testa.* 8vo. Florence, 1780, 200 pages.

The author allows that in certain cases the water penetrates into the lungs of drowned persons; that respiration is stopt, and the blood collected in the vessels of the head and thorax; but he denies that death can be brought on by these causes, and seriously ascribes it to the phlogiston retained in the lungs, and exerting its effects on the nervous system. He does not pretend to say how this phlogiston acts, but he supposes that a circulation is kept up, though weakly. He considers the froth that issues from the mouth of drowned persons, and others who die suffocated, as being nothing more than air thrown off from the lungs, and mixed with the mucus of the mouth and nostrils. His methods of recovery differ not from those in general use.

14. *Dissertatio Inauguralis Pharmacologica de Sternutatoriis.* Auctore *Francisco Alexandro Mangin.* 4to. Nancy, 1781.

The author distinguishes those medicines which excite sneezing from *errhines* or such as produce only an increased secretion of mucus in the nostrils. He gives a list of each.



T H E  
LONDON MEDICAL JOURNAL,

For NOVEMBER 1781.



SECTION I.

BOOKS.



- I. *Memorabilia circa Aerem, vitæ genus, sanitatem et Morbos Clausthalienfium. Auctore L. Fr. Benj. Lentin, M. D. et Med. Reg. Metall.*  
4to. Gottingæ, 1779. p. 144.

**T**HIS work, which seems to be the production of a judicious and attentive observer, is divided into three sections.

In the first section, the author treats of the non-naturals. We are told that Clausthal is situated on the Hartz, in a mountainous country, where the weather is extremely variable. The winter sets in in November with considerable severity. The summers are cool, but attended with frequent thunder storms, and great falls of rain. The inhabitants, the greatest part of whom are employed

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either in the mines or in the founderies, are crowded together in small, heated apartments. Their diet consists of salted pork, herrings, puddings, milk, cheese, and pulse. They are supplied with pure, wholesome water, but they drink freely of brandy, and of very indifferent coffee. The miners are exposed to frequent transitions from heat to cold, &c. which subject them to a variety of complaints. Those which prevail among the founders are the colic of lead and palsy. The children, who are made to work very early in life and are badly clothed, are subject to orthopnoea, tinea capitis, scrophula, bronchocele, epilepsy, and worms, particularly the tænia. The women menstruate irregularly, and are often troubled with fluor albus.

In the second section Dr. Lentin treats of the epidemic diseases of 1774. The summer, he observes, was cool, so that the mercury in Fahrenheit's thermometer seldom rose above 66°. The winter was unusually cold. The prevailing diseases were putrid and bilious fevers, combined more or less with rheumatic affection. Of 779 patients who were intrusted to his care, 22 died. In a table annexed to this part of his work, he gives a summary view of the diseases that prevailed amongst adults and children from 1774 to 1777.

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In the third and last section our author speaks of the *sporadic* diseases that occurred during the same period. He informs us that in several cases of phthisis, when the lungs were evidently ulcerated, he experienced good effects from the *oleum petrae*. He confirms the truth of an observation made long ago by Hollerius, that violent pains in the calves of the legs, particularly of the right leg, may be reckoned among the signs of a diseased liver.

Dr. Lentin is of opinion, that lepra and elephantiasis always take their rise from a slight cutaneous disorder. He relates the case of a miner, who, after sitting on the ground in a field during the hemorrhoidal flux, was seized with a violent itching of the scrotum, which was soon succeeded by an eruption of pustules on different parts of the body, but chiefly on the head and genitals. These pustules were filled with a corroding ichorous fluid, and when the scabs were scratched off or died away, they left behind them a painful, spreading ulcer. Tar water and warm bathing afforded the patient some little relief, but at length the disease brought on hectic fever, which proved fatal.

In the treatment of the colic of lead, Dr. Lentin generally found that emetics, antispasmodics, alkaline salts, and purgatives, proved efficacious.

Warm bathing and fomentations to the belly were of use in mitigating the pain, but he seldom experienced any good effects from opiates.

He observes that bronchocele is a frequent disease in those mountainous countries, especially in women. When the patient has been under thirty years of age, he has generally found a certain cure in Arnold's *pulvis ad strumam*, given in the dose of a tea-spoonful three times a day. This powder, if we mistake not, is an empirical remedy, the composition of which has not yet been made public.

In speaking of the hemorrhoids, the author observes that the *exsudatio hæmorrhoidalis*, as he terms it, produces many disagreeable effects in female patients, by occasioning a morbid irritability, and exciting them to manustrupation. The Wisbad waters, neutral salts, bleeding, and a milk diet, are recommended as the best remedies in hæmorrhoidal affection of the bladder.

He speaks of a case of mania, in which the extract of henbane proved of use; and towards the close of the work we meet with an account of an emphysema, produced by a fracture of the cartilages of the third and fifth true ribs, from which the patient recovered.

II. Johan-



II. *Johannis Razoux, Doctoris Medici Nemaufensis, Dissertatio Epistolaris de Cicutâ, Strammonio, Hyoscyamo, et Aconito.* 8vo. Nîmes, 1780. 46 pages.

**T**HIS dissertation is addressed to Baron Storck. In the first section the author relates several cases in proof of the efficacy of hemlock. Of these cases some few were communicated to him by his friend Dr. Pons, physician at St. Gilles in Languedoc: the rest are from his own practice. The following seem to be the most interesting:

A woman, aged forty years, had for a long time been subject to vomitings, which returned so frequently that at length she was seldom free from them. The efforts to vomit became more and more violent; she complained of a painful oppression at her stomach, and her nights were sleepless. After trying a variety of remedies without any good effect, our author prescribed the extract of hemlock. The patient began with small doses of this medicine, which she increased by degrees. In two months the vomitings ceased, and her digestion and health were soon perfectly restored.

A young ecclesiastic, by devoting himself too closely to study, lost his appetite, and became  
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languid and melancholy. After taking a purgative medicine, he was advised to swallow hemlock pills every morning, and to wash them down with a tea-cupful of an infusion of the same plant. At the end of ten or twelve days he began to experience a sensation of heat at his stomach, and it was not long before he was perfectly recovered.

A young woman, in her twenty-fifth year, was attacked with a fever, which terminated in ascites. Her pulse was small and quick, but somewhat tense. She voided only a small quantity of a turbid, high-coloured urine. Her appetite was almost entirely gone, her countenance and strength sunk, and she complained of a constant thirst. Diuretics and purgatives having been employed in a variety of forms without affording her any apparent relief, the author had recourse to the extract of hemlock, interposing a purge every fifth or sixth day. After pursuing this course about two months, the patient began to discharge a great quantity of urine, her belly lessened, and in a short time she found herself well.

Dr. Razoux likewise makes mention of a case of jaundice, accompanied with an enlargement of the spleen, in a woman thirty years old, whose menses had been suppressed three years ; and of a man afflicted with rheumatism, and several fistulous

lous ulcers: both these patients were cured by hemlock.

In the second section the author treats of the effects of stramonium. He relates only a single case in which a cure was effected by this medicine. The patient was a young man, aged twenty-two years, who had been four years subject to epilepsy. The fits at the beginning returned only once a month; but afterwards once, twice, and even thrice a week. The convulsions were irregular and frequent. In other respects the patient was well; his pulse and appetite were good, and his sleep tranquil. Several remedies had been tried without success. The author began by prescribing half a grain of the extract of stramonium twice a day, and gradually increased the dose till the patient took two grains a day. The fits soon became less frequent, and at length were entirely removed. Dr. Razoux acknowledges, that in several other cases in which he tried this remedy, it did not prove equally successful, which he supposes to have been in some measure owing to the irregularity of the patients, or the obstinacy of the disease.

The external use of the leaves of hyoscyamus has long been known, but this plant was seldom administered internally before Storck ventured to pre-

prescribe it.—Dr. Razoux asserts, that the extract of henbane is grateful to the nervous system, allays pain, strengthens the stomach, induces sleep, and is a powerful antispasmodic. One of his patients, a man forty years of age, made use of the fresh leaves of henbane as a topical application to a painful swelling. A maid-servant in preparing some broth for him, by mistake mixed some of these leaves with other herbs. The patient was immediately seized with a sense of coldness. He was unable to stir, and his pulse could hardly be felt. He complained of a painful sensation of heat in his throat and fauces, and his vision was extremely confused. A weakness of sight lasted even a month after his recovery. He pronounced his words with difficulty, and his memory seemed to have suffered; but he did not lose his understanding; neither was he convulsed. An emetic, diluting liquors, and purgative medicines, soon removed these alarming symptoms; after which, by the advice of our author, the patient took small doses of the extract of henbane, which completed the cure; so that this medicine, as he observes, employed with prudence, served to remove the very evils it had occasioned. This is the only instance he gives of its good effects.

We shall content ourselves with noticing the  
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last of three cases related in the fourth section, to prove the efficacy of the *extract. aconit.* prepared with sugar, two grains of which contain half a grain of the *aconitum*. The patient, who was a woman fifty years of age, after having been for several months subject to rheumatism, was attacked with an acute fever, which yielded to venæsection, purges, and other remedies; but soon afterwards the pains returned with increased violence. At this period of the disease our author began with giving her two grains of the extract once a day. In ten days the pains were diminished, but the patient had had no evacuation by sweat or otherwise. On the twelfth her belly became tense and painful. The use of the extract was suspended, till these symptoms were removed by proper evacuations, when she returned again to the *aconitum*, which in seven or eight days brought on the same bowel complaints as before, but they soon yielded to the former remedies. After this she was able to continue the use of the extract for a month without any inconvenience, and at the end of that time the rheumatic symptoms were entirely removed.

The fifth and last section relates to the *colchicum*. The author informs us that his experiments with this medicine are not yet sufficiently numerous to

enable him to speak decisively of its efficacy. Of three dropfical patients to whom he administered it, only one obtained a cure by it; but its effects in the other two cases proved it to be a powerful diuretic.

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III. *Observations on the diseases which appeared in the army at St. Lucia in 1778 and 1779. To which are prefixed remarks, calculated to assist in explaining the treatment of those diseases. With an appendix, containing a short address to military gentlemen on the means of preserving health in the West Indies. By John Rollo. Small 8vo. Barbadoes printed; London reprinted by C. Dilly, 1781. 160 pages. 2s.*

THIS work consists of two parts, each of which is subdivided into chapters and sections. The author begins with a general description of the island, to which he adds a particular account of the different places in it which may occasionally be occupied by an army.

The island, we are told, represents a portion of ground, on which are every where placed perfect and imperfect cones of irregular heights, leaving in some parts a considerable flat, in many  
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others deep vallies covered with a stagnating water, impenetrable woods and poisonous shrubs, and generally the resort of noxious animals. The seasons are much the same here as in the other Caribbee islands; but the rainy periods continue longer, and appear in different times. The particular rainy season begins about the end of June, and continues several months. In the winter the mornings and evenings are chilly; in the summer months hot and sultry. May and June, the author informs us, were exceedingly hot and disagreeable, especially when there was little wind, and in these months insects of the most troublesome kind over-run every place.

The winds generally blow from the N. E. to the S. E. seldom varying to the westward. About the latter end of July, but more certainly in August and September, the winds blow very severely, sometimes forming a hurricane. Earthquakes are now and then perceptible, but are never of any severity or duration.

The soil in general is rich and fertile. It produces cocoa, coffee, cotton, and sugar cane; vegetables and fruit in plenty; cattle, poultry and fish are in abundance. Nor is St. Lucia destitute of medicinal productions; it yields simarouba, zinziber, cassia fistularis, and the castor nut.

Ipecacoanha, squills, jalap, farfaparilla, and even bark, are likewise said to be found here. The author closes his first chapter with a description of a volcano in the neighbourhood of Souffrir. The second chapter contains a register of the weather from December 1778, to May 1779. In this register no mention is made of the thermometer, or any other meteorological instrument, but it serves to shew the general state of the atmosphere, the direction of the winds, and the rainy days.

In the third chapter we find a list of diseases, and an account of the number of men in health in different parts of the island. From this list it appears, that of 208 men 169 were attacked with diseases, of which number 16 died. The diseases were in the following proportions :

Diarrhœa,	- - - -	8
Dropfy,	- - - -	2
Dysentery,	- - - -	15
Head-ach,	- - - -	2
Remittent fever,	- -	63
Quotidian,	- - - -	47
Tertian,	- - - -	32
Quartan,	- - - -	1

Of the 16 who died, two were carried off by a diarrhœa, and fourteen by a remittent fever.

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In the fourth chapter the author describes the situations of the island, in which the men specified in the table were fixed, and endeavours to determine which are the most healthy. For this purpose he gives a comparative view of the health of the natives compared with that of the troops. He observes, that at Carenage-town the people are short-lived, have annual attacks of fever, yellow and meagre countenances, small legs, except when œdematous, so that they have the appearance of persons worn out by disease. At Gros Islet, we are told, the inhabitants live longer, are not so subject to disease, at least not of the same degree or duration, and that they are fuller in the face, and more hearty. At Souffrir the inhabitants have cheerful countenances, and are nearly in a state of health with those of Gros Islet, but this, our author thinks, may be attributed to a better diet rather than situation. On the extensive plain to windward of this place very few diseases appear, and they are mostly intermittents: the countenances here of the women, of the children, and even of the men, have some degree of resemblance to those of the European, the female has the red on her cheek, and the child has all the marks of health.

From this view of soldiers and inhabitants on  
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different situations, Mr. Rollo concludes that the following particular parts of the island are the most favourable to Europeans. He has placed them according to their superior degree of healthiness; viz. 1. Windward of Souffrir. 2. Morne Fortune. 3. Vigie and Rock battery. 4. Situations about Gros Islet. In general he supposes the windward parts of the island, and such as are not exposed to the noxious effluvia of marshes and woods, to be the most salutary places of abode.

In the first chapter of the second part of the work, Mr. Rollo gives a history of the diseases which prevailed amongst the troops. He divides them into intermitting and remitting fevers, and dysentery. Of the first of these, he observes that they were usually attended with a yellowness of the skin, costiveness, and a high-coloured urine. These symptoms were commonly more evident in quotidians than tertians. The paroxysms were, in general, perfect, but of different durations, especially in the quotidian, which was often a prelude to the remittent fever, and then the attacks became irregular and imperfect.

The remittent fever was sometimes the consequence of an intermittent, particularly if the latter had been neglected on its first attack; but in general this fever made its appearance in a different

ferent manner, and in its turn it often ran into the intermittent.

Languor, prostration of strength, chilliness, livid colour of the lips, a particular dejected look, and nausea, were the first marks of this disease; and these were soon followed by anxiety, head-ach, pain of the back and loins, heat, thirst, often vomiting, and an increase of the nausea, languor, and prostration of strength.

After the first remission, which generally happened towards morning, all the preceding symptoms increased, with the addition of a foul tongue, a yellowness of the eyes; and, in some cases, an universal tinge of the skin, delirium, urine in small quantities and very high-coloured, imparting an offensive smell, often a difficulty in voiding it, which sometimes came to a perfect stoppage.

The pulse, in the beginning of this fever, was seldom much affected. A remission was perceptible from an abatement of the severity of the symptoms, a gentle moisture on the skin, a free discharge of urine, and a diminution of the yellowness.

An eruption about the mouth and ears with a swelling of the upper lip, either in this or the intermittent, happening when the fever was going off, was a certain sign of recovery; but if it appeared when dangerous symptoms were present,

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our author considered it as greatly assisting in the unfavourable prognostic.

Of the dysentery, Mr. Rollo observes, that in its attack, progress and terminations, it resembled that disease as it appeared in the army in America, except that it more remarkably assumed the form of the intermittent and remittent. A fever, we are told, often preceded the proper dysenteric symptoms, and was always coeval with them, though varying in its degree of severity.

In the following chapter the author endeavours to trace the causes of the diseases just now spoken of. From certain circumstances he is inclined to suppose that altho' heat, cold and moisture, in certain degrees and combinations, may produce diseases of considerable severity, they were not the common causes of the diseases he has described; but that they were chiefly the consequence of marsh effluvia. It is evident, however, he observes, that the former causes operated so far as to induce and facilitate the action of these effluvia, and to make them more universal and active in their effects.

It has been generally remarked, that the effluvia of marshes are most active when the water drains off and the earth appears. This, we are told, was certainly the case in St. Lucia. The greatest  
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part of the regular intermittents happened when the rains were most frequent, and before the stagnating pools discovered their bottoms; and the most dangerous remittents appeared when the marshes had no water, but a slimy matter on their surface.

The third chapter contains the author's method of practice, and first his treatment of the intermittent.—In the absence of the paroxysm he exhibited a solution of tartar emetic, in small quantities, and at short intervals, to excite vomiting. After this was effected, he generally gave it in smaller doses, in order to procure a few stools; but this depended much upon the state of the patient's belly, and on the continuance of the disease. If the patient was much weakened and had a loose belly, he omitted the emetic tartar and gave a small dose of ipecacoanha, which seldom produced stools.

He always found it necessary to give an emetic at the commencement of the disease, and often during its progress. After the operation of the emetic, he immediately gave the bark, in substance, and in as large doses as the stomach could bear. This method was prosecuted even though he had only time to throw in one or two doses of the bark before the period of the next paroxysm;

at the termination of which he began again, and in general put a stop to the disease in two or three paroxysms from the first exhibition of the bark. If the bark was not given in this manner and in very large doses, the fever often assumed a more dangerous form—that of a remittent.

The tertian was treated in the same manner as the quotidian, only more time was taken in clearing the stomach and bowels, and in attending to particular symptoms.—In the paroxysm of both after the cold stage began to disappear, he always gave a combination of tartar emetic and opium in solution; opium was given alone, if the stomach was very irritable; and to a careful exhibition of these in this state of the disease, he attributes the success he met with. The constant effects of this method were to abate the severity of the symptoms, to shorten the duration of the paroxysm, and to render the intermission longer and more perfect. These effects were more certain, if the stomach permitted the combination of tartar emetic.

The remittent fever required the earliest exhibition of medicine; for whether it appeared as a distinct disease immediately in its own form, or as preceded by the intermittent, it was always attended with danger; and two or three hours delay proved fatal.

If

If the remittent had been preceded by an intermittent, in which evacuations had been used and the disease was of some continuance, Mr. Rollo seldom found it necessary to repeat an emetic or laxative. When any of these evacuants were wanted, the smallest quantity of an antimonial or ipecacoanha was given, and common glysters were used. The chief indication in such cases was to procure a distinct remission, or, if possible, an intermission. The most effectual means for this purpose were found to be nauseating doses of tartar emetic; and at the time of the usual exacerbation of fever, an opiate by itself, or combined with an antimonial, according to the state of the stomach, in the same manner as after the cold stage of an intermittent. If the febrile symptoms ran high before the remission was expected, a large blister, applied to the back, particularly if any degree of delirium was present, greatly assisted to bring about that desirable event.

When a remission was effected, our author directly administered the bark. Altho' the interval allowed him perhaps to give only two or three drachms of it, or even less, yet in the next exacerbation the good effects of it were evident; and more so in the succeeding remission, which

was longer and more perfect. In this way he continued until the fever was removed, or brought into the intermittent form. But if his attempts failed, and he had the greatest reason to dread the termination, he continued the bark, without regarding the existence of fever, and added to it the use of snake-root. If the stomach could not retain the bark, he gave a strong infusion of snake-root alone, and ordered wine, in proportion to the state of the disease. By this method, he informs us, he has often altered the dangerous appearance, and given a favourable turn to the complaint.

If the remittent fever appeared in its own form, and was not preceded by an intermittent, he gave the tartar emetic in doses sufficient to produce vomiting and purging, taking care to encourage the latter no farther than to procure an effectual discharge of the contents of the intestines, and not to weaken the patient. If the exacerbation succeeded these operations, he generally gave an opiate, and some time after reassumed the tartar emetic in nauseating doses, frequently increasing the quantity so as to produce a gentle rejection of the stomach. In cases of this sort, as the danger became sooner apparent, our author was more anxious to throw in a proper quantity of the bark; and when it was rejected by the mouth, he attempted

tempted it in clysters, but he seldom found his endeavours of any use, as the disease in this state was generally beyond the power of medicine.

Towards the termination of the fever, or in the last stages of it when the patient was much reduced, he experienced the best effects from wine. When bark was rejected, and every bad appearance present, he has been sensible of benefit from this valuable article; but it was given from one to two pints in the course of twenty-four hours, in small doses, and at proper intervals. He is convinced that many, by a proper use of it, have escaped death; but at the same time, is aware that it has been imprudently used by having been given too early, or in too great a quantity.

In the treatment of the dysentery, Mr. Rollo always began by emptying the stomach and bowels. For this purpose he generally employed a weak solution of emetic tartar, unless the patient was much reduced, or had been two or three days ill, for in such cases he generally preferred small doses of ipecacoanha, and a weak solution of Glauber's salt. After the operation of these medicines he gave an opiate, which in many cases was repeated in two hours.

Next morning he prescribed a combination of tartar emetic and opium, sometimes in a solid,  
but

but oftener in a liquid form. He has given to the quantity of three or four grains of opium in this way, in the course of the day, and the general consequences were large stools; an abatement of the griping and tenesmus, and a remission of the febrile symptoms. These good effects were more certain, if the medicine was given so as to excite nausea, which the author always endeavoured to maintain.

At the commencement of the treatment, he often used fomentations to the lower extremities and to the abdomen, which were continued till a remission of the pain was effected. When the griping or pain of the belly was very severe, the application of volatile liniment and blisters was found to have a good effect.

When the dysentery assumed the form of an intermittent, it was treated in much the same manner as that disease; and when it assumed a dangerous appearance, the author's principal reliance was on the bark.

As astringents, he tried the different preparations of earths, infusions and decoctions of simarouba and the bark; but he found opium to be the best, assisted by diet, air, and cleanliness.

After this account of the general mode of treatment, our author proceeds to treat of particular  
symp-



symptoms. These were vomiting, looseness, comatose disposition and hiccup. Of the first of these, vomiting, he observes that it very often occurred in the remittent fever, and sometimes in the quotidian. Besides preventing the exhibition of medicine, it was always accompanied with pain, and an increase of every attendant symptom; and when it took place after the disease had been of some continuance, it was a constant mark of danger.

When vomiting appeared at the commencement of the disease, it generally went off by encouraging it either with chamomile tea, or small doses of an antimonial, or a few grains of ipecacoanha. If costiveness attended, a stool was procured by clysters. If this symptom continued, or appeared in a later period of the disease, with pain in the situation of the stomach or liver, a blister applied over the whole extent of the epigastric region, was in general attended with a very good effect. This application was assisted by the use of saline draughts.

Mr. Rollo thinks that in some cases he has seen a small quantity of opium of use, provided the patient abstained from liquids for some time after taking it. When vomiting succeeded the use of the bark, it was for awhile omitted, or given in

a different form. In cases of this kind, an opiate given in a solid state, about an hour or two before fresh recourse was had to the bark, seldom failed to prevent it.

In cases of looseness, if its continuance threatened danger, a free use of opiates combined with bark, was found to succeed better than any other remedy that was tried.

Comatose disposition was generally checked in its progress, and a favourable turn given to the disease, by applying a large blister over the whole scalp, immediately on the appearance of the comatose disposition. At the same time if the degree of danger was great, another blister was applied to the back, or one to each ankle, while camphor was given internally in a thick solution of extract of bark every two or three hours.

In cases of hiccup, musk and camphor were given in large doses, but without any good effect. When this symptom appeared early, a gentle emetic removed it; and when it was united to other symptoms of danger, the bark was the only medicine from which any relief was derived.

The author next speaks of the treatment of after-complaints, under the several heads of,  
 1. Pectoral complaints. 2. Hypochondriac affection, 3. Abdominal swellings. 4. Œdematous swellings

swellings of the lower extremities. 5. A weak state of the stomach, with flatulence. 6. Costiveness. And, 7. Diarrhoea.—These secondary disorders generally took place in patients whose disease had been of a long continuance. Pectoral complaints, we are told, were very frequent. The application of blisters, small doses of ipecacuanha, occasionally repeated, with gentle opiates, in the form of Dover's powder, or antimony and laudanum, a milk and vegetable diet and gentle exercise, were found to be the best remedies in such cases.

In cases of hypochondriac affection, a careful attention to prevent the patient from being by himself, a change of situation, exercise, chalybeate preparations, and cold bathing, if no topical affection existed, were the means our author found most successful.

In abdominal swellings, if the complaint appeared to originate from an enlargement of the liver, accompanied with pain on pressure, he began the removal of it by applying a blister, and giving neutral salts to keep the belly gently open. When the pain went off, recourse was had to mercurial ointment applied externally.

A weak state of the stomach was generally relieved by chalybeates, mineral acids, aromatics, bitters, absorbents, abstinence from vegetables,

exercise, and a free air. Costiveness was obviated by aloetic preparations, solutions of alkaline salt, and a laxative diet. In cases of obstinate diarrhoea, Mr. Rollo found no medicine so efficacious as opium. He has given it to the quantity of three or four grains a day, and is convinced of having saved many lives by it. Though he has continued the use of it for several weeks, he never met with any bad effect, or any difficulty, in discontinuing it.

In the fourth chapter the author relates several cases to illustrate what he had advanced in the preceding chapters; after which he treats of relapses, the causes of which he refers to, 1. The diet of soldiers. 2. The necessity of their returning to duty very soon after recovery. 3. The impracticability of sending them to more healthy situations. Upon the whole he considered a change of air, a regulated diet and exercise, and a well-conducted cold bathing, (if no topical affection existed) as the only certain means of preventing a relapse, by being best calculated to restore the natural vigour of the system.

In the author's address to military gentlemen, on the means of preserving health, we meet with many judicious observations, which cannot fail of being useful to those Europeans who visit the West Indies.

IV. Re-

IV. *Recherches sur quelques préparations chimiques, appliquées à l'usage de la médecine; lues à la séance publique de la faculté de médecine de Paris le 5 Novembre 1778; par M. Majault, D. R. de la dite faculté; augmentées depuis de plusieurs observations en refutation de ce qu'on a publié sur les propriétés de l'alkali volatil fluor, celles du savon et du foyer de soufre. i. e. Inquiries concerning several chemical preparations used in physic; read at the public meeting of the faculty of physic at Paris, Nov. 5, 1778, by M. Majault, Doctor Regent of the said faculty; to which are now added, several remarks in refutation of what has been published relative to the properties of volatile alkali fluor, and those of soap and liver of sulphur. 8vo. Paris, 1779. 50 pages.*

THIS experienced writer, who has for many years officiated as physician to the Hotel Dieu, is very severe in his strictures on certain chemical preparations that have lately been introduced into the practice of physic. He confines himself chiefly to the volatile alkali fluor, which has been so warmly recommended by M. Sage, in apoplexy, asphyxy, &c. to the use of soap as an antidote to aqua fortis; and to the hepar sulphuris as an antidote to arsenic,

and some other mineral poisons. With regard to the first of these, our author begins with cautioning the practitioner not to confide in it in the treatment of apoplexy. He observes, that if the disease is owing to plethora, by administering the volatile alkali we only sacrifice valuable moments, which might be better employed in bleeding and in other evacuations, the effects of which would be more beneficial than such a stimulant, in a disease in which every thing that accelerates the motion of the blood may prove hurtful; that, on the other hand, if the apoplexy is of the ferous kind, by reposing wholly on this irritating vapour we may be liable to omit other means of relief, such as vomits, purgatives, and the stimulus of blisters, the long continued irritation of which, he contends, renders them far preferable to that of the volatile fluor, the effects of which are only momentary: hence, concludes M. Majault, in the humoral apoplexy the alkali fluor leaves the cause of the disease, and of course the disease itself, in its full force; and in the sanguineous apoplexy the same remedy increases both the cause and the effects of the complaint. M. Sage has recommended his remedy in asphyxy, a disease which he pretends is owing to a mephitic



phitic acid acting on the glottis and lungs, and putting a stop to their functions. “ Neutralize  
 “ this acid—says M. Sage—and you recover the  
 “ patient ; and how can such a neutralization  
 “ be effected—adds he—more speedily, or with  
 “ more certainty, than by means of the volatile  
 “ alkali ?”—In answer to this curious reasoning the writer of the work before us observes, that in order to produce such an effect, it is at least necessary that the alkali should unite with the acid. Now—says he—in a state of asphyxy, the patient either does or does not breathe.—If he does breathe, the atmospheric air, by passing into the lungs will soon remove that which is mephitic, and in such case the specific will be of no use. If on the other hand the patient does not breathe, how will it be possible to introduce air impregnated with the volatile alkali fluor into the lungs ? and yet it is evident there can be no neutralization unless the alkali and acid are united. Of course—adds our author—this pretended remedy can be of no use, though in some cases it may prove dangerous ; as, for instance, may happen, if at the instant the patient begins to breathe the atmospheric air is sufficiently impregnated with the volatile alkali to neutralize the mephitic acid contained in the lungs ; be-  
 cause

cause by such an application the patient will probably be suffocated.

After having considered the volatile alkali, our author proceeds to another remedy announced in the *Journal de Medecine* for May, 1778. This remedy, which consists of a solution of soap, has been recommended as a specific to counteract the baneful effects of aqua fortis taken internally. If this solution is mixed with aqua fortis, a neutral salt will no doubt be formed by a combination of the nitrous acid with the alkali that enters into the composition of the soap, and the former will of course be inactive. But, says M. Majault, the nitrous acid cannot pass with impunity through the mouth and œsophagus, or remain inactive in the stomach; it corrodes, it inflames all the parts it touches, and it is certain that a solution of soap cannot obviate or remedy these effects. If, when taken into the stomach it neutralizes some portion of the acid, still it will irritate the inflamed membranes and increase the pain; these truths, our author observes, are every day proved by simple practical facts, so as to admit of no doubt. From these facts, he adds, it is evident, that promises of a neutralization which shall prevent or remove the effects of caustics, are nugatory, and that mucilaginous

luginous remedies in different forms, and amongst others a lohoch composed of the yolk of an egg, gum arabic, and a large proportion of absorbent earth, are the best adapted to these melancholy cases.

Our author next proceeds to the refutation of certain doctrines advanced by M. Touffaint, in his work entitled "*Contrepoisons de l'arsenic, &c.*" According to that writer all the hepars are antidotes to these mineral poisons. M. Majault has particularly confined himself to what M. Touffaint has said of the effect of the hepar sulphuris on arsenic. The result of this combination, says the latter, is a kind of orpiment so overloaded with sulphur, and rendered so mild by the intimate manner in which the arsenic is united with it, that it becomes incapable of doing harm. An accurate description of orpiment, and a recital of its dreadful effects when any one has had the misfortune to swallow it, are the arguments employed by our author to destroy this erroneous and dangerous assertion. He adds, that in these alarming cases he has experienced the best effects from the mucilaginous lohoch above-mentioned, combined with twenty drops of the essential oil of aniseed. This remedy, which has long been successfully administered at the Hotel  
Dieu

Dieu to patients poisoned with arsenic, was first prescribed, it seems, in that hospital by the late M. Payen.

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V. *An account of the nature and medicinal virtues of the principal mineral waters of Great Britain and Ireland, and those most in repute on the continent. To which are prefixed, directions for impregnating water with fixed air, in order to communicate to it the peculiar virtues of Pyrmont water, and other mineral waters of a similar nature; extracted from Dr. Priestley's experiments on air. With an appendix, containing a description of Dr. Nooth's apparatus, with the improvements made in it by others; and a method of impregnating water with sulphureous air, so as to imitate the Aix-la-Chapelle and other sulphureous waters.* By John Elliot, M. D. 8vo. Johnson, London, 1781. 236 pages, with a copper plate.

**I**N an introduction to this work the author gives a general view of his subject, with some remarks on the medicinal properties and methods of using different mineral waters, which he has arranged in the form of tables, under the several heads of, 1. Chalybeate waters; 2.

Chaly-

Chalybeate purging waters ; 3. Sulphureous waters ; 4. Sulphureous purging waters ; 5. Acidulous or saline waters ; 6. Saline purging waters ; 7. Vitriolic waters ; 8. Waters which contain an earth. — The introduction concludes with the following short account of the most obvious methods of analyzing, or discovering the nature of mineral waters.

“ 1. Waters are known to contain iron by their exhibiting a purple or black colour with the infusion of galls ; and the quantity of iron which they contain, that is, their strength as chalybeate waters, is determined by the deepness of the colour ; the quantity and strength of the infusion being the same. If the iron be held in solution by fixed air, the latter will fly off on exposing the water in an open vessel, and then the iron will fall to the bottom in the form of a yellowish or reddish brown powder, or oker. But if the iron be held in solution by the vitriolic acid, in the form of green vitriol, or copperas, this precipitation of oker does not take place. The chalybeate water may also be known to be vitriolic by its austere styptic taste.

2. If, on the addition of syrup of violets to a water, it turns to a bright green, it shews that an alkaline salt is contained in the water, and

the only alkaline salt ever found in mineral water is the fossil.

When this kind of water, however, is first taken up from the well, the alkaline salt is usually saturated with fixed air, and therefore does not change syrup of violets green. It is frequently even supersaturated with fixed air, and therefore turns the syrup red. But the air soon flies off on exposure, and then the effect is as above-mentioned; the water is also found softer than common water, and lathers better with soap.

But earthy and metallic substances also change syrup of violets green. To be certain therefore that it is the fossil alkali, add a little fixed alkaline salt, and if no powder falls to the bottom, and the water does not become turbid, it may be concluded that it is the fossil alkali with which the water is impregnated.

3. If on the addition of syrup of violets a red colour is observed, the water contains an acid. Thus, fixed air is an acid; and when waters which are strongly impregnated with fixed air, are first taken up from the fountain, they are found to change syrup of violets red. As the air flies off, however, this redness disappears; and if the water also contained an alkali, it will,

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on the further escape of the fixed air turn green, for the reason given in the last article.

4. If water contains sea salt, oil of vitriol dropt into it will cause white noxious fumes to arise; which is the acid of the sea salt, whose place the vitriolic acid had taken in the alkaline basis of the sea salt.

If a sufficient quantity of the oil of vitriol be added, and the water be evaporated, not sea salt but a true Glauber's salt will remain behind.

Also the residuum of these waters crackles and flies when placed on a red-hot iron.

5. If a mineral water contains that kind of purging salt which the chemists call calcareous Glauber's, or the Epsom salt (the purging salts usually found in mineral waters) a solution of fixed alkali added will make the water turbid, and the earthy basis of the salt will fall to the bottom in form of a white powder.

6. Sulphureous waters are known by their smell, and by their changing silver of a reddish copper colour.

7. If water contains an earth deprived of fixed air, it may be discovered by adding fixed air to it; for then the water will become turbid, and the earth will fall to the bottom. If, on the contrary, it contains an earth supersaturated

with fixed air, drawing part of it away by the air pump, or exposing the water to the air, or to warmth, will also precipitate the earth.

Waters in general contain several kinds of these solid matters, and therefore more than one of these methods are to be employed in detecting them.

8. Water may be known to contain fixed air by its sparkling on being poured from one vessel to another, by the explosion which follows on its being shook in a phial half filled with it, and by the bubbles which arise when placed over the fire, long before it is hot enough to boil.

The solid matters contained in waters may also be known by evaporating the waters and examining their residuums."

In the work itself the different waters are arranged alphabetically. As it is impossible to abridge a performance of this nature, we shall select the following accounts of the Bristol and Malvern waters as specimens of the manner in which the author has treated his subject.

" BRISTOL, in Somersetshire.

The springs are known by the name of the Hot Wells.

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The water at its origin is warm, clear, pellucid and sparkling; and if let stand in a glass, covers its inside with small air-bubbles. It has no smell, and is soft and agreeable to the taste. It raises the thermometer from about seventy to eighty degrees. It contains an earthy matter, which is suspended by means of fixed air, together with sea salt, and a species of Glauber's salt. The quantities of these latter ingredients however are very small.

It has been recommended in a variety of disorders. In consumptions and weakness of the lungs; in cases attended with hectic fever and heat (in which, among other properties, it differs from the Bath water) in uterine and other internal hæmorrhages, and in immoderate discharge of the menses; in old diarrhœas and dysenteries; in the fluor albus; in gleets; in the diabetes; and in other cases where the secretions are too much increased, and the humours too thin; in the stone and gravel; in the strangury; in colliquative sweats; in scorbutic and similar cases; in cholics; in the gout and rheumatism; in loss of appetite and indigestion; and in many other diseases.

The usual method of drinking the water is a glass or two before breakfast, and about five in  
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the afternoon. The next day three glasses before breakfast, and as many in the afternoon; and this is to be continued during the patient's stay at the Wells. A quarter or half an hour is allowed between each glass.

A course of these waters requires no preparation further than to empty the bowels by some gentle purge; and if heat or fever requires, to take away a few ounces of blood. Costiveness, however, should be avoided during the course.

Externally they are useful in sore and inflamed eyes; in scrophulous and cancerous ulcers; and in other similar cases.

This water is cooling and quenches the thirst. It is best drank at the spring head; though it will bear carriage tolerably well."

"MALVERN, in Gloucestershire.

There are two noted springs at this place, one of them called the Holy Well, in the midway between Great and Little Malvern, the other is about a quarter of a mile from Great Malvern. But the waters are not materially different.

They are light and pleasant chalybeates, and are remarkable for being almost entirely free from any earthy matter. For three quarts of the Holy Well water being evaporated, scarce  
the

the fourth part of a grain of sediment was left behind.

They are recommended as excellent in diseases of the skin; in leprosy; scorbutic complaints; the King's evil; glandular obstructions; scald heads; old sores; cancers, &c. They are also serviceable in inflammations and other diseases of the eyes; in the gout and stone; in cachectic, bilious, and paralytic cases; in old head-achs, and in female obstructions.

The external use is by washing the part under the spout several times in a day; afterwards covering the part with cloths dipt in the water, which must be kept constantly moist. Those who bathe, usually go into the water with their linen on, and dress upon it wet, and it is never found to be attended with inconvenience.

The waters, when first drank, are apt to occasion, in some, a slight nausea; others they purge briskly for several days; but they operate by urine in all.

It is adviseable to drink freely of the waters for some days before they are used externally."

In his account of the methods of impregnating water with fixed air, the author observes, that Mr. Blades has made a considerable improvement in Dr. Nooth's apparatus, by changing

ing the stopple for a glass cock, and by altering the middle vessel into a form more advantageous for the impregnation.

Dr. Elliot's methods of imitating sulphureous and other mineral waters are similar to those described by Professor Bergman, an account of which will be found in the first volume \* of our Journal.

## SECTION II.

### ESSAYS AND OBSERVATIONS.

- I. *Observations on the treatment of Convulsions during parturition.* By Robert Bland, M. D. Physician Man-midwife to the Westminster General Dispensary. Read October 15, 1781.

**I**N the course of my attendance on the midwifery department of the Westminster General Dispensary, four cases of convulsion during parturition have fallen under my care. As this is by no means a frequent accident, and as the cause of it seems to be generally misunderstood, I flatter myself that a short account of the cases,

\* Pages 75 and 79.

with



with some observations on the treatment of convulsions at that period, may not be unacceptable to the Society.

The first of the patients was a young woman, who in the 7th month of her first pregnancy, suddenly became convulsed, and continued to be so at intervals for four days. The first fit lasted half an hour; the subsequent ones were of shorter duration; and at length, by repeated blood-letting, and the use of purgative and anodyne medicines, they were subdued, and at the end of three weeks more, by an easy and expeditious labour, the woman was delivered of a child, which, from its appearance, had probably been dead three or four weeks. In two other women the convulsions did not begin till the labour was pretty far advanced. The same methods were adopted in these cases as in the one just now mentioned, but without any good effect, as the spasms continued till the patients were delivered, after which they ceased, and the women recovered without any intervening accident. The children were born alive; and in both cases the delivery was apparently accelerated by the convulsions.—Of the fourth case, which occurred since I thought of communicating this paper to the Society, I shall give a more particular account. The patient

was a young woman, twenty-four years of age, short of stature, and of a delicate habit. On Friday the 14th of September last, being near her full time, she was taken with labour pains, attended with a mucous discharge from the uterus, the entrance to which was a little dilated. The pains continued, but with long intervals, till Wednesday evening, (Sept. 19) when she was seized with convulsions. During the fit, she was senseless, and foamed at the mouth, her head at the same time being drawn over her shoulder, her countenance distorted, and her whole frame extremely agitated. She remained in this state forty minutes, when she fell asleep, and after awaking at the end of half an hour, appeared at first somewhat wild and incoherent, but soon recovered herself. It was at this period of the case that I first saw the patient. She had now frequent returns of slight pains, her skin felt hot, and her pulse beat with considerable quickness. She was costive, but voided her urine freely. The os uteri, which was dilated to the size of a half-crown piece, was thick, rigid, and of a conical shape. The head of the child rested above the brim of the pelvis.

With a view to prevent a return of the spasms, I directed eight ounces of blood to be taken from  
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the arm, but this was instantly productive of a second convulsive paroxysm, as formidable in every respect as the first, and of equal duration. Like that, it terminated in a sound sleep. When the patient awaked, a common glyster was injected, and procured a plentiful stool. About an hour afterwards, thirty drops of the *tingtura thebaica* were administered, by means of which she slept quietly during the remainder of the night; but at six the next morning, (Sept. 20) she had a third convulsive fit of nearly the same violence as the preceding ones. Another glyster was now thrown up, but this producing no effect, twelve grains of jalap and four of calomel were exhibited, and to quicken their operation, three or four spoonfuls of a solution of purging salts were directed to be taken every three or four hours, till the bowels should be sufficiently emptied.

The patient had no return either of convulsions or labour-pains, and by repeating the opiate in the evening, she rested well during the night. The next morning I found her skin cool and soft, her pulse of its natural quickness, and her countenance cheerful. She was desirous of drinking a little porter, which was allowed her; and as she had been sufficiently purged, the opiate was repeated at night. At six the next morning

(Sept. 21) the labour-pains re-commenced, and at ten she was delivered of a child, which seemed to have been dead several days. The placenta not being detached at the expiration of two or three hours, I was again sent for by the midwife who attended the patient, and although I was obliged to introduce my hand into the uterus, and to exert some force in separating the cake, it did not in the least degree renew the convulsions.

For the production of convulsions during child-birth, various causes have been assigned, such as the death of the child *in utero*, fullness of the blood-vessels, extreme irritability or inflammation of the *os uteri*, close hot rooms, cordials, &c. but neither of these supposed causes satisfactorily account for them, it being well known that the greater number of women similarly circumstanced escape, while others of different and opposite temperaments and situations, fall a sacrifice to them. Thus many women bear dead children within them several weeks, without ever experiencing convulsions; and thin and delicate women are found to be as subject to them as the plethoric and robust. Again, women who are so irritable, that they can hardly bear the slightest handling of the *os uteri*, escape them; as do others also, who have suffered laceration of the vagina,

or

or other local injury in parturition. Lastly, if close hot rooms and cordials could induce them, we know that at one time at least, they must have been very frequent ; which is not the case. But if we reject the agency of the several causes we have enumerated, still less shall we be inclined to admit that of the labour-pains, as being able either to excite or to continue them ; not only because so very large a number of child-bearing women are exempt from them, but because women whose labours are peculiarly severe, are not more subject to them than those who have the easiest births ; and because convulsions do not necessarily and constantly terminate with the delivery of the child. The opinion that convulsions are occasioned, or at least continued by the labour-pains, probably took its rise from its having been observed that they frequently ceased on the birth of the child ; but this ceasing of convulsions at that period, when it does happen, arises from another cause, and when the labour is too precipitately terminated, is frequently succeeded by the most dangerous and fatal symptoms, as will be explained by and by. It will in general, I believe, be equally vain to attempt to search for the cause of them in the affections of the mind ; for although any great affliction, or sudden and violent

violent gust of passion, may be supposed sufficient to produce them, they will oftener be found where no sensible disturbance has preceded.—

\*Dr. Denman seems to think they are almost peculiar to great towns, where people live luxuriously ; but the circumstances of the subjects of these observations do not corroborate that conjecture : they were all amongst the lower class of people, and had little opportunity of injuring themselves by indolence or intemperance ; neither could I learn any circumstance previous to the appearance of convulsions, in any of these cases, which would have led to the knowledge of their approach, and consequently pointed out any method of preventing them. From these reflections, it would seem that convulsions in this state have nothing peculiar in their cause from those, which happen to persons differently situated ; and although external agents, particularly violent affections of the mind, may sometimes, as at other periods, excite them ; yet this will rarely happen, unless there is some peculiar vice in the constitution, disposing to them : and from observation I think we are justified in saying, that the puerperal state is far from favouring the irruption of them, as women at that time may do and suffer, almost

\* Essay on Puerperal Convulsions, 1768.

with



with impunity, what at any other time would be attended with the most serious consequences. But whatever may be the cause, there is evidently in the fit, as in the apoplexy, a too rapid and dangerous determination of the blood to the head, which demands the most immediate and serious attention. To remedy this, blood must be immediately drawn, and, if possible, from the jugulars. The state of the labour should then be inquired into, and if the child is not too far advanced in the pelvis, it will be right to prescribe a large stimulating glyster to empty the bowels, and at the same time lessen the determination to the head; this, if not sufficient for the purpose, should be assisted by a few grains of jalap and calomel, or some other brisk purge. If the labour is far advanced, the convulsions will act upon the foetus; and if there is no impediment, either from wrong presentation, or disproportion of the child to the pelvis, will in a little time safely expel it. If there should be found to be any obstacle to the delivery, the position of the child, if faulty, must be altered; or we ought to have recourse to other necessary assistance, in the same manner as if convulsions were not present. In either way the termination of the labour will frequently put an end to the convulsions. But if this is too  
hastily

hastily performed, before the vessels have been properly emptied, and the rapid motion of the blood in them diminished, there will be danger, from the torrent rushing too impetuously into the intestines, or other abdominal viscera, of inflammation in some of those parts inducing puerperal fever, and oftentimes death. But where the labour is not far advanced, after the exhibition of the glyster and purgative, thirty drops of the tinctura thebaica may be given and repeated, interposing occasionally the glyster or cathartic as symptoms shall indicate. I have said nothing of the use of bathing or fomenting the feet and legs, both because I have had no experience of their efficacy in these cases, and because, until other methods by evacuations, &c. have been tried, they seem to me by their effect of increasing the volume of the blood, to have a tendency rather to increase than diminish the spasms.

I have now finished the task I imposed upon myself of inquiring into the nature of what are called (I think improperly) puerperal convulsions, and I have endeavoured to overturn an opinion concerning them, which seemed to tend to the introduction of a practice highly dangerous to the patient. If my reasoning should be thought just, and the practical cautions relative

to

to too hasty delivery in this case salutary, I shall have the heart-felt satisfaction of believing, that I may one day be instrumental in saving the life of one or more objects, about to be sacrificed by too close an adherence to a rule, taken up, I believe, too precipitately, and without sufficient examination.

*St. Alban's-street,*  
*Oct. 1, 1781.*

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II. *Account of a case in which a cherry-stone was extracted from an abscess in the abdomen. Communicated by F. Swedjar, M. D. Physician in London. Read October 22, 1781.*

THE writings of practical authors afford a variety of instances of extraneous substances being taken into the stomach, and afterwards discharged from the surface of the body by abscess. All these cases are proofs of the wonderful resources of nature, and of course are worthy of being recorded. The following addition to the histories of this sort will perhaps not be deemed unworthy the notice of the Society.

The patient was a young woman twenty-two years of age, and seemingly of a good habit of body. She enjoyed an uninterrupted state of good health till about the middle of August 1779, when she was attacked with an excruciating colic, which continued for some hours, but at length yielded to purgative medicines, glysters, and opiates. It was not long, however, before she had a second attack of the same kind, but with increased violence. Her abdomen was painful when touched, particularly about the navel; she had frequent inclinations to vomit, and her pulse indicated considerable inflammation. A blister was applied to the abdomen, and this with bleeding, the warm bath, and glysters soon removed the vomiting and abated the pain; after which she took a solution of manna and Rochelle salt, and soon afterwards an opiate. These medicines had the desired effect of procuring stools and removing the pain.

This painful and alarming disorder continued to return from time to time, with greater or less violence, till the latter end of November, when the patient perceived a small painful swelling near the navel, the skin around which was evidently inflamed. At the end of another week  
this

this tumour seemed to have an evident tendency to suppuration, which was encouraged by the application of a bread and milk poultice. Care was taken at the same time to obviate any feverish heat by keeping the patient's body open, and by a strict attention to regimen. In about three weeks the abscess burst spontaneously, and discharged about an ounce of pus. The next day a slight appearance of fœces was observed on the dressings, and the wound continued painful and inflamed. The use of the poultice was continued over the dressings; and as the pulse was much quickened, in consequence, as was supposed, of the inflammation, six ounces of blood were taken from the arm.

The patient complaining of a pricking sensation within the wound; a probe was introduced, and a hard substance being felt near the orifice, the opening was dilated with a common bistoury, and an extraneous body extracted, which proved to be a cherry-stone almost wholly incrusted with fœces, but with a sharp part of it projecting sufficiently to account for the pain and irritation the patient had experienced.

After this substance was taken out, more fœces passed through the wound than before; but in the course of a few days the inflammation

U u 2

subsided,

subsided, and the discharge lessened, so that in the space of about seven weeks the wound was perfectly healed, and the patient has since remained well.

*Newman Street,*  
Oct. 10, 1781.

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### S E C T I O N III.

#### MEDICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL NEWS.

**T**HE Royal Academy of Sciences at Rouen have proposed the following question for a prize of three hundred livres. “ In what degree, and in what manner can we depend on magnetism, or electricity (either positive or negative) in the treatment of diseases ?” The dissertations on this subject are to be sent to M. Dambourney at Rouen before July 1, 1782.

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Extract of a letter from an ingenious practitioner at Sandwich in Kent, to a Member of the Society, dated October 10, 1781.

“ My druggist, Hopkins of Paternoster Row,  
“ has introduced among us a new kind of bark,  
“ which



“ which is of a brick-duft colour when powder-  
 “ ed. It has done wonders in the intermittents,  
 “ which have been uncommonly troublesome  
 “ this autumn, and would not give way to the  
 “ beft common bark, unlefs given in enormous  
 “ dofes. You may be affured that it is infinitely  
 “ fuperior to thé grey bark, and fhould be fought  
 “ after by practitioners.”— On inquiry we find,  
 that the bark here fpoken of was part of the  
 cargo of a Spanifh prize. Mr. Hopkins pur-  
 chafed thirty chefts of it, twenty-feven of which  
 have been already diftributed among his custo-  
 mers in Effex and Kent, all of whom agree in  
 extolling its fuperior efficacy in the cure of in-  
 termittents.

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In our Journal for Auguft we promifed to  
 give fome account of the eulogies of the late  
 BARON HALLER and M. de JUSSIEU, published  
 in the *Memoirs of the Academy of Sciences at  
 Paris* for 1777. To copy the whole of thofe  
 papers would be to exceed the limits of our  
 plan. We fhall therefore felect from them the  
 following anecdotes of the eminent perfons  
 above-mentioned.

Of the celebrated HALLER, his biographer  
 relates, that his genius began to difplay itfelf at  
 a very

a very early period. When he was only nine years old he composed a Chaldee grammar, a Greek and Hebrew dictionary, and an historical dictionary which contained upwards of two thousand articles, abridged from Moreri and Bayle.

This learned man passed almost the whole of his life in study. His wife, his children, all assisted him in his labours, by extracting passages from books, or making drawings of plants or animals. As a proof of his activity we are told, that having had the misfortune to break his right arm, the surgeon who visited him was surprized the next day to find him writing with his left hand.

His life was embittered by domestic misfortunes. His first wife died a month after her arrival at Gottingen, of a miscarriage occasioned by a fall. He vented his grief in two beautiful odes, which excited the sensibility of all the admirers of German poetry. Two years after this he married again, and his wife died at the end of a few months. He lamented this second wife in the same manner as he had done the first; and the world, observes the historian, perceiving how easily he found a consolation in poetry, began not to pity him. His third wife,  
who

who survives him, was the daughter of Dr. Teichmeyer, professor of anatomy at Jena.

From 1753, the year in which he quitted Gottingen, to the time of his death, he resided at Berne, his native city, where he took an active part in public business as a magistrate. He improved the salt manufactory, and prevailed on government to increase the salaries of the clergy in the Pays de Vaud. The inhabitants of Berne are likewise indebted to him for the institution of an orphan house. His experiments on the formation of the chick, his great work on physiology, and his *Bibliotheca*, were the chief of his philosophical labours during the same period.

For some years before his death he had a painful affection of the bladder, the severity of which he mitigated by opium. In the midst of his sufferings from this disease, he employed himself in completing his *Bibliotheca*, and in preparing a new edition of his physiology for the press. When he found his health declining, he requested Dr. Roffelet, his physician, to conceal nothing from him. His friend had the courage to tell him his real sentiments of his case. Haller, when he perceived his last moments approaching, felt his pulse from time to time;  
and

and at last turning to Roffelet, "My dear friend—said he—the artery has done beating," and the next moment expired. He was born on the 16th of October 1708, and died Dec. 12, 1777, leaving four sons and four daughters.

BERNARD DE JUSSIEU, M. D. Member of the Academy of Sciences at Paris, &c. was the son of an apothecary at Lyons, where he was born on the 17th of August 1699. He came to Paris in 1714 to finish his studies under his elder brother, Anthony, who was at that time a celebrated professor of botany. With this brother, in 1716, he undertook a botanic journey to the Pyrenées, Spain and Portugal. On his return he visited a part of the Alps, and then went to settle as a physician at Lyons; but it was not long before he returned to the capital to succeed Vaillant, who resigned the place of demonstrator of botany in his favour. The king's garden and museum of natural history were at that time in a neglected state, but M. de Jussieu soon restored them to good order.

He was a complete master of every branch of natural history, and at the meetings of the Academy of Sciences, at which he was a constant attendant for the space of fifty years, his opinion was always decisive on matters of that sort.

Lewis

Lewis XV. employed him in forming a botanic garden at Trianon, and was fond of his conversation, but that prince never made him any recompence for his trouble, nor even reimbursed him the expence he was at in his frequent journies on that business. Happily his elder brother, by leaving him a good fortune, had rendered him independent.

M. de Jussieu visited England twice, and brought from thence the first cedar of Lebanon that was planted in France. His life was uniformly spent in acquiring and disseminating natural knowledge. The diffidence he entertained of his abilities prevented him from publishing many works, but no man was ever more ready to communicate his knowledge. Pupils resorted to him from every country, and all the great botanists of Europe considered him as their master.

— On the 20th of September 1777, he was struck with apoplexy, after which he languished till his death, which happened on the 6th of November following. Dying unmarried, he bequeathed the bulk of his fortune to one of his nephews, who is a physician of considerable eminence at Paris.

Besides Anthony de Jussieu already mentioned, another of his brothers, Dr. Joseph de Jussieu,

who died lately at Paris, acquired some celebrity as a physician and naturalist, and was one of the French academicians sent by Lewis XV. to Quito to Spanish America, in order to ascertain the figure of the earth.

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### PROMOTIONS.

*Oct.* 26. Mr. John Billam of Trinity college, Cambridge, to be M. B.

*Nov.* 3. Mr. — Mumforth to be surgeon to the 59th regiment of foot, in the room of Mr. John M'Culloch. Mr. — Girdlestone to be surgeon to the 101st regiment of foot, in the room of Mr. — Allen.—6. Dr. John Davison, Dr. Snowden White, and Dr. John Storer, to be physicians; Mr. John Hollis, Mr. Thomas Wright, Mr. John Bigsby, and Mr. J. Attenburrow, surgeons; and Mr. John Debray, apothecary to the county infirmary at Nottingham.—8. Dr. Samuel Foart Simmons, to be physician to St. Luke's Hospital, in the room of the late Dr. Brooke. Dr. Patrick Dugud Leslie, physician at Durham, to be Fellow of the Royal Society.

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### DEATHS.



D E A T H S.

Lately at Rochester, Thomas Cradock, M. B.  
aged 84.

—— Naffington, Northamptonshire, Mr.  
Forster, surgeon and apothecary.

—— Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire,  
Mr. Robert Heygate, surgeon and apothecary.

Oct. 28. At Potton, Bedfordshire, Mr. Henry  
Sheffield, surgeon and apothecary.—29. At Can-  
terbury, Mr. Thornton, apothecary.

Nov. 7. At Rye in Suffex, Mr. Needler  
Chamberlaine, surgeon and apothecary.—15. At  
Deptford, aged 104 years, Mr. John Brickley,  
formerly an army surgeon.

S E C T I O N IV.

M O N T H L Y C A T A L O G U E.

i. **A**N Enquiry into the nature, causes, and  
method of cure, of Nervous Disorders.  
In a letter to a friend. By *Alex. Thomson*, M. D.  
8vo. *Murray*, London, 1781. 35 pages. 1s.

This little performance contains several judi-  
cious remarks on the nature and treatment of  
nervous disorders. The following extract includes  
part of the author's observations on the means of

cure in these cases, and will serve as a specimen of the work.

“ In prosecuting the radical cure of nervous complaints, the most efficacious remedies are steel, the Peruvian bark, and the cold-bath. In some cases, the two first may with propriety be combined; in others, one of them only can be administered with advantage. When the pulse is slow, either may be given; if frequent, unless this symptom be occasioned by weakness, steel especially is unadvisable. It ought, however, to be remarked, that in those disorders, the pulse is subject to great irregularity; and therefore, that no positive indication should be drawn from it, without the concurrence of other circumstances. Both steel and bark are improper while the patient is plethoric, or afflicted with fixt pains in the belly. Chalybeate waters are indicated in the same circumstances with steel medicines, and may be found alike beneficial.

By nothing is the body more effectually strengthened than by the cold-bath, which should, therefore, never be neglected, when no particular circumstance forbids. To bathe three or four times a-week is sufficient; and at the end of every three months the practice ought to be intermitted for a week or ten days; a caution  
also

also to be adopted with regard to the strengthening medicines.

“ The method of using the cold-bath in summer and autumn, and the internal corroborants in the winter and spring, is liable to exception. For the former, by far the more efficacious, is by this means too long interrupted, and in the seasons when, if the bath be of fresh water, its influence is sensibly greater. A more adviseable method is to use the bath, with the bark and chalybeates, in shorter alternations; bathing two or three weeks, and then taking the medicines half that time. Nay, there lies no objection against the use of the Peruvian bark every day the person does not bathe; observing to intermit the medicine occasionally for a few days. A light tincture of the bark, joined to bitters, may be used in this manner with success.

“ When acids do not disagree with the stomach, twenty or thirty drops of the elixir of vitriol may be taken once or twice a-day, in a small dish of camomile or rosemary tea.

“ Beside those remedies, and a strict attention to diet, it is necessary that the patient use daily exercise; than which nothing is more conducive to promote digestion, facilitate sleep, and restore to the constitution the possible degree of strength.

Both

Both the kind and duration of exercise must be suited to the state of the patient. The most beneficial is riding on horseback. Whatever be the exercise, the person should carefully avoid fatigue, which not only retards the cure, but excites palpitations and spasms of different parts, with variety of uneasiness. In those circumstances, fetid medicines have peculiar power. Of use they may be also to allay the craving of the stomach, to which nervous persons are frequently subject. But this symptom finds, perhaps, no better remedy than a crust of bread, or any thing solid.

“ A dry air, temperately cool rather than warm, is most favorable to the cure of nervous disorders. If ever the Peruvian bark be preferable to cold-bathing, it is during a moist state of the atmosphere. At least in such seasons it might be alternated with the other. In moist weather, the flesh-brush is also of particular service; but it should always be administered by an attendant. For a nervous person is soon fatigued with the exercise: and as the most proper time for it is that of going to bed, the consequence of such fatigue might be continued watchfulness.

“ In the treatment of nervous disorders, no care is more important than that of preserving tranquillity.

quillity, Vexation, grief, and despondence are peculiarly injurious; while on the other hand, cheerfulness, and whatever promotes it, as agreeable company and amusement, essentially conduce to the cure; which may be also considerably forwarded by the practice of early rising.

“ When the disorder may have resisted all the above remedies, from the use of a milk-diet has relief sometimes been effected. But this final resource must either be continued during life, or quitted with great caution, and by slow degrees.”

2. *Physiological Disquisitions; or, discourses on the natural philosophy of the elements.* 1. On matter; 2. On motion; 3. On the elements; 4. On fire; 5. On air; 6. On sounds and music; 7. On fossil bodies; 8. On physical geography, or the natural history of the earth; 9. On the weather. By *W. Jones*, F. R. S. Rector of Paston in Northamptonshire, and author of an *Essay on the first principles of natural philosophy.* 4to. *Robinson*, London, 1781, 1l. 1s. in boards.

3. *The new British Dispensatory*, 12mo. *Newbery*, London, 1781. 3s.

4. *Essais historiques, litteraires, et critiques, sur l'art des accouchemens, ou Recherches sur les coutumes, les mœurs, et les usages des anciens et des modernes dans les accouchemens; l'état des*  
des

dès sages femmes, des accoucheurs, et des nourrices chez les uns et les autres : ouvrage dans lequel on a recueilli les faits les plus intéressans et les plus utiles sur cette matière, avec un grand nombre de notes curieuses, et anecdotes singulieres. *i. e.* Essays historical, literary, and critical, on the art of midwifery ; or, Inquiries concerning the customs, manners, and usages of the ancients and moderns in midwifery ; the state of midwives, accoucheurs, and nurses amongst the one and the other : being a collection of the most interesting and useful facts on this subject, with a great number of curious notes and singular anecdotes. By *M. Sue*, jun. late provost of the college of surgery, and professor of anatomy and surgery in the practical school, surgeon in ordinary to the Hotel de Ville, and member of the academies of Montpellier, Lyons, Rouen, Dijon, Bordeaux, &c. 8vo. Paris, 1779. 2 vols.

These two volumes, the first of 600 and the second of 731 pages, contain an immense quantity of good and bad materials, collected from Astruc, Haller, Portal, and others. A great part of the work is filled with the author's notes, printed in a small type, in which we meet with biographical anecdotes of an infinite number of persons.



persons, both ancient and modern, who do not seem to have the most distant connexion with the subject; such, for instance, are Abraham, Isaac, David, Ezekiel, Origenes, Flavius Josephus, Suetonius, Lycurgus, Drelincourt, Cato, Cicero, Titus Atticus, Horace, Apollonius, Propertius, Servius, Symmachus, Pollux, Paulus Jovius, Tacitus, Nero, Caligula, Homer, Diodorus Siculus, Strabo, Job, Thomas d'Aquinas, Euripides, Demosthenes, Mahomet, Shakespeare, Voltaire, &c. &c. &c.

As a specimen of the state of midwifery in England, he presents his readers with a long extract from *Tristram Shandy*, and with Dr. Nicholl's petition of the unborn babes.

5. *Dissertatio chemica de analysi ferri, quam venia ampliss. facult. philos. preside mag. Torb. Bergman, chemiæ prof. &c. publice ventilandam sistit Johannes Gadolin, Aboæ-Fenno. 4to. Upsal, 1781. p. 74.*

This elaborate and ingenious performance is founded on a great number of experiments, which cannot fail of rendering it extremely interesting to the chemical reader.

6. *Histoire des insectes nuisibles à l'homme, aux bestiaux, à l'agriculture, et au jardinage, avec les moyens qu'on peut employer pour les*  
*Vol. II. N° V. Y y détruire,*

détruire, ou s'en garantir, ou remédier aux maux qu'ils ont pû occasionner. *i. e.* History of insects hurtful to man, to cattle, to agriculture, or to gardening; with the means that may be employed for destroying or guarding against them, or for remedying the evils they may have occasioned. 12mo. Paris, 1781. 339 pages.

This work, which is written by M. Buchoz, seems to be a useful compilation.

7. *Delectus observationum practicarum ex diario clinico operâ et studio Philippi Rodolphi Viat, M. D. soc. reg. sc. Gottingensis sodalis.* 8vo. Winterthur, 1780. 318 pages.

8. *J. Frid. Cartheuseri, M. D. et professoris, &c. Dissertationes physico-chemico-medicae de quibusdam materiae medicae subjectis exaratae, nunc iterum recusae.* 8vo. Francof. ad Viadrum, 1779. p. 168.

These dissertations are five in number. In the first, the author treats of the Mungo root, a substance that is brought from the East Indies, and sold by the Dutch at a high price. To a description of the plant and its virtues, which is taken chiefly from Kempfer, our author has added its chemical analysis. This root, particularly its cortical part, has a very bitter taste, not unlike that of the *gentiana lutea*. The author,

author, from his experiments, considers wine as the best menstruum of this substance, and assures us he has frequently seen it efficacious in debility of the stomach.

In the second dissertation the author gives a complete history of the balsam of Mecca, in which he points out its chemical analysis, adulterations, medicinal properties, &c.

In the third dissertation Dr. Cartheuser treats of millepedes, of which he gives the chemical analysis. As these insects contain a great quantity of mucilaginous and earthy particles, he supposes them to possess little or no medicinal virtues, especially as he has often given them in cases in which they are usually prescribed, without having experienced the least good effect from them.

In the fourth essay we have an account of the chemical analysis, &c. of Cassia buds; and in the fifth and last dissertation the author treats of the Columbo root. From his experiments with this substance, he supposes rectified spirit to be the best menstruum of it. He has observed, that vinegar increases its bitter taste, and that the *lixivium tartari* has a contrary effect. This leads him to caution us against combining alkalis with bitters in the cure of diseases.

9. *J. Frid. Cartheuseri, M. D. &c. Differtationes nonnullæ selectiores Physico-chemicæ ac Medicæ, varii argumenti post novam lustrationem ad prælum revocatæ. 8vo. Francofurt. ad Viadrum, 1779. p. 366.*

This collection may be considered as a continuation of the preceding article. It contains thirteen dissertations, of which the titles are as follow: 1. *De cinnabaris inertia medicæ*; 2. *De eximia myrrhæ genuinæ virtute*; 3. *De recta motuum Naturæ existimatione in morbis*; 4. *De oleo kajeputi*; 5. *De hydrophthalmia*; 6. *De crocis martialibus*; 7. *De morbis morborum remediis*; 8. *De amylo*; 9. *De suppuratione et tinnitu aurium*; 10. *De incommodis senectutis*; 11. *De noxia retinendorum excretionem, et excernendorum retentionem voluntaria*; 12. *De respiratione*; 13. *De sale volatili oleoso solido in oleis æthereis nonnunquam reperto*; 14. *De remediis antiseptis.*

Of the concrete substance, which is the subject of his 13th essay, he observes, that it is not, as some have imagined, a species of camphor, but a volatile oily salt. It has been observed in the oils of orange peel, cinnamon, &c. adhering, some months after distillation, in a small quantity, to the sides of the vessel containing them. This substance easily melts upon the tongue, but tastes  
exactly

exactly like the oil it is procured from, and has none of the properties of camphor. He supposes this kind of salt to be similar to that which is obtained from benzoin, styrax, and balsam of Tolu. He adds, that it resembles sugar, and on that account might with propriety be called *saccharum volatile*.

10. *Über die behandlung des venerischen ubels, i. e. of the Treatment of the Venereal Disease, By Charles William Nofe, M. D. 8vo. Augsbourg, 1780. 192 pages.*

The author of this work, who is physician to St. Martin's hospital for venereal patients at Augsbourg, confines his inquiries chiefly to the use of sublimate in the cure of the lues venerea. He generally administers this medicine in the form of an electuary by mixing it with rob of elder, or the extract of bark. Being persuaded that the constant effect of mercurials is to weaken the system, he insists on the necessity we are under of combining them with tonics.

11. *Dissertatio inauguralis de hydrope. Auctore J. C. F. Bloedau. 4to. Wittemberg. 1780. p. 24.*

12. *Nouvelles observations et recherches analytiques sur la magnesie du sel d'Epsom, suivies de reflexions sur l'union chymique des corps.*

i. e. New observations and analytical inquiries relative to the magnesia of Epsom salt, to which are added reflexions on the chemical union of bodies. By *Peter Butini*, citizen of Geneva. 8vo. Geneva, 1781.

The principal observations in this tract relate to the solution of magnesia in water impregnated with fixed air being in greater quantity than in pure water, and more so in cold than in hot water. The author has remarked, that a solution of magnesia in water impregnated with fixed air is precipitated by heat alone, and that this precipitation forms hexagonal prisms.

13. Ad opusculum cui titulus est, " *Questionum medicarum series chronologica, &c.* " &c." supplementa et emendationes ab anno 1508 usque ad annum 1763. 4to, Paris. p. 9.

The work, to which this is a supplement, contains a catalogue of all the theses maintained in the schools of physic at Paris, from 1508 to 1763, and a list of the members of the Faculty of Physic in that city during the same period. This supplement is given gratis to the purchasers of the original work.

14. Dissertatio inauguralis medico-chirurgica de fistulam lachrymalem sanandi methodis; Auctore *Joanne Georgio Schultze*. 8vo. Strasbourg, 1780. p. 80.



15. *Dissertatio inauguralis medico-chemica de anathymiafi cinnabaris.* Auctore *Dionisio Ponyrka.* 4to. Straßburgh, 1780. p. 40.

16. *Dissertatio sistens Helminthocorti historiam, naturam atque vires.* Auctore *Petro Josepho Schrivendimann,* 8vo. Straßburgh, 1780. p. 40.

17. *Recherches chymiques sur l'étain, faites et publiées par ordre du gouvernement; ou réponse à cette question; Peut-on sans aucun danger employer les vaisseaux d'étain dans l'usage économique? i. e. Chemical inquiries concerning tin, made and published by order of government: or an answer to this question; May we without any danger employ tin vessels for domestic purposes? By Messieurs Boyen, apothecary major to the army, and Chabard, Provost of the College of Pharmacy.* 8vo. Paris, 1781. 285 pages.

The results of these inquiries are, that tin vessels may be employed with safety for culinary purposes, and that tin has no deleterious property. The authors observe, that a great number of plumbers, house-painters, and other persons, who are exposed to the noxious fumes of lead, are every year brought to the Charity Hospital at Paris with colic, palsy, &c. but on

in-

inquiry they do not find that any workers in tin ever apply there for the cure of any disease brought on by that metal.

18. Lettre d'un medecin de la Faculté de Paris à un medecin du College de Londres; ouvrage dans lequel on prouve contre M. Mesmer, que le magnetisme animal n'existe pas. *i. e.* A Letter from a physician of the Faculty of Paris, to a physician of the College of London, written to prove, contrary to the assertion of M. Mesmer, that there is no such thing as animal magnetism. 8vo. Hague, 1781. 70 pages.

19. Disquisitio medico-forensis, quâ casus, annotationes ad vitam foetus neogoni disjudicandam facientes proponuntur. Auctore *Chr. Frid. Joeger*, M. D. and Prof. 4to. Ulm, 1780.

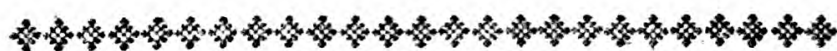
20. Dissertatio inauguralis de apoplexia biliosa. Auctore *Joanne Gulielmo Moll*, Colonienfi. 4to. Gottingæ, 1780. p. 40.

21. Dissertatio inauguralis de gastritide. Auctore *Philippo Christophoro Bode*, Luneburgensi. 4to. Gottingæ, 1780. p. 24.



T H E  
LONDON MEDICAL JOURNAL,

For DECEMBER 1781.



SECTION I.

BOOKS.



I. *Commentationes Societatis Regiæ Scientiarum Gottingensis. Classis Physicæ, Tomus II. ad A.* 1779. 4to. Gottingæ, 1780, p. 138.

I. *Remarks on several exotic plants cultivated in the Royal Botanic Garden. By John Andrew Murray, M. D. Professor of Botany in the university of Gottingen.*—The plants described in this paper are as follow: 1, RHEUM HYBRIDUM, *foliis cordatis acuminatis planis, radicalibus utrinque bi-vel tridentatis, reliquis repandis.*—This plant, the seeds of which were sent from the botanic garden at Copenhagen, is supposed by our author to be a species of Mule, produced by the seminal dust of some other species of rhubarb accidentally falling on

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the *pistilla* of the *Rheum Palmatum*. It is said to be taller than any other rhubarb plant, and to have very large leaves, three feet long. 2. *LYCIUM RUTHENICUM*, *foliis fasciculatis linearibus, ramis dependentibus*.—Dr. Murray received the seeds of this and several other plants from Dr. Pallas, who collected them in Siberia, but he does not find any description of this particular species of *Lycium* in Linnæus, Pallas, or any other botanic writer. 3. *BETONICA HIRSUTA*, Linn. This plant, which is indigenous in the Alps, is described by Linnæus in his 2d *Mantissa* plant. It has so much resemblance to the *Betonica Officinalis* L. that it has been often confounded with that plant. In order to prevent a similar mistake in future, Dr. Murray gives an accurate description of the *Betonica Hirsuta*, and points out the principal marks that distinguish it from the plant just now mentioned. 4. *VERBESINA DICHOTOMA*, *foliis oppositis ovatis tomentosis petiolatis, caule supra dichotomo extimo internodio*.—Of this plant our author observes, that he should have taken it for the *Verbesina Lavenia* L. had not Linnæus and Burmannus both agreed in describing the latter with smooth leaves. This and other circumstances induce him to consider the present plant as a distinct species

species to which he gives the name of *Dichotoma* on account of its stem being divided or forked at its upper part. 5. COMMELINA BENGHALENSIS Linn. Dr. Murray is persuaded that this plant, which is a native of Bengal, is the same as that described by Linnæus in his second Mantissa under the name of *Commelina Cucullata*. He remarks at the same time, that in the last edition of the *Systema Vegetabilium* no mention is made of this plant, although no reason is given why it is omitted. 6. MALVA VIRGATA, *foliis basi angustatis multiformibus partitis laciniis inciso-crenatis pedunculis unifloris*. This plant has hitherto been considered as a variety of the *Malva Capensis*, but our author is convinced that it is a distinct species. The engraving given of it by Dillenius in his *Hort. Eltham.* is said to be inaccurate. 7. ASCLEPIAS SIBIRICA Linn.—We have here the first engraving that has been given of this plant, and a more minute description of it than is to be found in Linnæus or any other writer.—All Dr. Murray's descriptions are illustrated by engravings.

II. *Chirurgical observations.* By Augustus Gottlieb Richter, M. D. *Professor of Surgery in the university of Gottingen.*—The author begins  
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his paper with lamenting the inefficacy of medicine in cases of cancer. He is persuaded that the remedies hitherto proposed for the cure of this disease have all of them done more harm than good, by wasting valuable moments ineffectually, and delaying the extirpation of the cancerous mass till the disease has been beyond the reach of surgery.

Dr. Richter considers the want of a proper attention to the diagnosis in these cases as another defect in this branch of medical practice. He observes, that modern physicians, though extremely assiduous in discovering new remedies against cancer, have been but little solicitous to ascertain the symptoms and nature of the disease. He even does not hesitate to pronounce, that it is more difficult to determine the presence of cancer, than it is to cure it, as, in his opinion, there is no invariable and certain criterion as yet established, by which a cancer may be distinguished from other ulcers, and he is convinced that many ulcers have been considered as cancers, which in fact were not such. To this source of error and uncertainty he ascribes the accounts given us by authors of wonderful cures performed by different remedies in cases of cancer.

Pain,



Pain, which is the most frequent and troublesome symptom in cancerous affection, affords, in our author's opinion, no proof of the presence of cancer, as it often occurs with great vehemence in other species of ulcers. The acrid sanies, the callous state of the lips of the wound, and the fungous excrescence that usually accompany cancer, are all of them rejected for the same reason.

Farther, Dr. Richter remarks that the disease happening in a glandular part is no proof of its being cancerous, as the worst kind of cancers oftentimes occur in parts that are not glandular, while glands in different parts of the body as often suppurate, and heal in the kindest manner. He observes also, that as cancerous ulcers are not always preceded by schirrus, the previous existence of the latter cannot be reckoned among the permanent guides to the diagnosis in these cases; and that ulcers which are not of a cancerous nature may take place in parts affected with schirrus, he thinks is sufficiently proved by the first of the five cases related in the paper before us.

From these considerations our author is led to conclude, that there is nothing in the origin or progress of the disease that can enable us to pro-

pronounce it to be of a cancerous nature. “Vā-  
 “ rious—says he—are the beginnings of this  
 “ dreadful complaint. Sometimes it arises from  
 “ a schirrus, at others from a wart, or a slight  
 “ pimple. In some cases it fixes its seat in an  
 “ encysted tumour; in others it begins with  
 “ affecting some of the bones, and appears as a  
 “ species of exostosis or spina ventosa. The symp-  
 “ toms also of the disease vary so much in its  
 “ progress, that the authors who have written  
 “ on the subject can hardly be said to have  
 “ described one and the same disease. What  
 “ definition then can we give of cancer? and  
 “ how can we distinguish it from other ulcers  
 “ *mali moris*?”—To these two questions the  
 author candidly acknowledges his inability to  
 reply.

He observes, that very often the term cancer,  
 like that of malignant fever, is made use of as  
 a veil to ignorance, while the cause of malignity  
 lies not in the ulcer, or in the nature of the fe-  
 ver, but in the physician who treats them. He  
 has had occasion, he says, to see ulcers which  
 were owing to a caries, and had been mistakenly  
 considered as cancerous; and he has sometimes  
 cured what was deemed an open cancer of the  
 breast by repeated emetics and purges, the ill  
 con-

condition of the ulcer in those cases having been occasioned merely by an acrid saburra in the primæ viæ.

As a proof of the very opposite opinions of medical authors on the subject of cancer, Dr. Richter quotes the writings of the late Professor Monro of Edinburgh and Mr. Hill. The former of these asserts, that of sixty patients in whom he had extirpated cancers himself, or seen cancers extirpated by others, four only were saved, all the others dying miserably after the operation. Mr. Hill on the contrary affirms, that of eighty patients on whom he himself performed the same operation, only two died.

After these preliminary observations the author gives an account of five cases that have occurred to him in his practice. The first is the case of a woman, aged 40 years, who after excessive grief for the loss of her husband perceived a small tumour in the lower part of her left breast; which increased by degrees to the size of a man's fist, and remained in that state for several years. At length, on a sudden, the whole breast became wonderfully enlarged. It was at this period of the disease that our author first saw the patient. The breast had now acquired thrice the bulk of a man's head, and extended as low down as the  
navel,

navel, appearing like a bladder excessively distended with water. On the right side a small, hard lump was to be felt, near which was a small ulcer that afforded a considerable discharge of a reddish, watery sanies. The patient did not complain of pain when the breast was pressed with a finger; nor did there appear to be any disease of the axillary glands, or any adhesion of the tumour to the pectoral muscle. She was troubled however with hectic fever every evening, and likewise with profuse sweats, oppression at the breast, cough, and great pain about the right scapula.

The author at first tried the effect of medicines, but these affording the patient no relief, he judged it necessary at the end of a few weeks to have recourse to the knife. On making an incision into the tumour, two pints of a reddish fluid were discharged from a large cyst formed within the substance of the breast. The breast when amputated was found to weigh eight pounds. It included two cavities, one of which was large enough to admit a man's fist, and was surrounded by a diseased, pulpy mass. This cavity had a small communication with the external ulcer.

The patient died on the third day after the  
opera-

operation, and on dissection part of the true ribs of the right side and the middle of the sternum were found to be carious. The right cavity of the thorax was filled with a reddish fluid, and the whole of the right lobe of the lungs diseased, that part of it next the carious ribs being in a state of suppuration. The stomach and convex surface of the liver likewise appeared to be in an inflamed state.

The subject of the second case was an unmarried woman, twenty-four years of age, who applied to our author for the cure of a schirrous tumour in each of her breasts. That in her left breast, which appeared first, had come on without any blow or other external cause, and had gradually enlarged to the size of a man's fist, and for six months had been attended with a constant burning pain, though not always of equal vehemence. The schirrus in the right breast had begun to appear about the time the first became painful, and was now about the size of a pigeon's egg. Both tumours were perfectly moveable; the skin that covered them was sound, and although the pain of the left breast sometimes extended to the axilla, no induration was perceptible in the axillary glands of either side.

The general health of the patient did not appear to be affected. Both tumours were removed by the knife. On the second day after the operation the menses appeared, and the day following the patient had a slight symptomatic fever. From this period she had recourse to a milk diet. On the sixth day both the wounds afforded a good pus, but of a singular smell. Our author compares it to that of wood in a state of putrefaction.

On the tenth day a tumour as large as a filbert nut appeared on the margin of the wound in the left breast, but in a few days gradually disappeared. On the 22d the pus became thin, acrid, and foetid, and the night following the menses again made their appearance. On the 24th the patient was frequently attacked with shivering, and the next day had an erysipelatous eruption on her breast and abdomen. The pus at the same time was thin, like the serum of milk, and so extremely acrid, that it excoriated both the wounds. The patient took an ounce and a half of Glauber's salt, and in about five days the eruption disappeared and the pus was of a better consistence; but about this time a painful tumour appeared near the lip of the wound in the left breast, and in a few days suppurated,



purated. After this the patient recovered without any other accident. An issue was made in her left arm, and she was advised to persevere for some time in the use of a milk diet. Six months after the operation Dr. Richter was informed by letter that she continued in perfect health.

The schirrus taken from the left breast was of a cartilaginous consistence, but did not afford the least appearance of suppuration.

The author having remarked that in this, as well as in many other cases of schirrus or cancer of the breast, the disease has been preceded by grief, thinks the observation made by Bierchen well founded, which is, that of the causes predisposing to cancer none are more frequent or painful than violent passions of the mind.

The third case related by our author affords an instance of a singular disease of the breast. The patient was a female, thirty years of age, of an irritable habit, and subject to profuse menstruation. She applied to Dr. Richter on account of a swelling of the size of a walnut in her right breast. From this tumour, which was perfectly moveable, there was a series of smaller tumours extending to the nipple, each of which was about the size of a pea, and from the nipple to the axilla a hard chord-like

appearance was to be felt, of the size of a finger for some way upwards, after which it gradually lessened, and at length totally disappeared in the axilla, so that its termination could not be felt.

Whenever the larger tumour was compressed a reddish watery fluid issued in considerable quantity from the nipple, till the series of smaller tumours was obliterated, and the large one became flaccid and seemingly empty. In the space of a few hours, however, they filled again as before, and whenever they were too much distended the patient complained of a burning pain, which was soon removed by emptying the tumour.

Previous to the first appearance of this disease the patient had been subject to a profuse hæmorrhoidal flux, which was suddenly checked, and some months afterwards she perceived that the linen covering her breast was tinged with blood, which was found to proceed from a very small opening near the nipple. At length the tumour made its appearance, and gradually increased to the size of a hen's egg. At the end of a few months the whole breast swelled on a sudden to an enormous bulk, but was restored to its former size by the internal use of hemlock, leaving,

leaving, however, the tumour in its original state. From this time the opening just now spoken of closed, and the fluid began to issue from the nipple.

Dr. Richter supposing this disease to be owing to a varicous dilatation of the vessels of the breast, rather than to a cancerous affection, declined performing any surgical operation; but contented himself with prescribing internal remedies. The patient was still following his prescription at the time the paper was written, so that we are not informed how the case terminated.

In the fourth case we have an account of a cataract attended with extreme sensibility of the eye. The disease was removed by extracting the chrystalline lens.

In speaking of this case the author remarks, that formerly it was his practice not to uncover the eye till about the eighth day; but that he is now convinced by experience of the propriety and even necessity there is of separating and cleansing the eye lids every day after the operation. In the case before us the eye lids became swelled and painful on the third day after the operation, but this troublesome symptom was soon removed by cleansing the eye lids.

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In the fifth and last case we have another instance of a cataract successfully extracted by our author. The only remarkable circumstance in this case was the diminished size of the eye, which had lost about a third of its original bulk previous to the operation.

III. *Anatomico-neurological observations on the Semilunar Ganglion and Plexus situated in the abdomen, and on the nerves that compose it. By Henry Augustus Wrisberg, M. D. &c.*—This elaborate paper, which does not admit of abridgement, is divided into four parts. In the first the author treats of the phrenic nerve; in the 2d of the 8th pair of nerves; in the 3d of the course of the great sympathetic nerves through the thorax to the semilunar ganglions; and in the 4th of the origin, structure, situation, figure, and size of the semilunar ganglions and plexus. The anatomical descriptions are illustrated by five engravings.

IV. *An account of some uncommon tumours that occur about the wrist and in the palm of the hand, which, though similar in their appearance, are very different in their nature, and of course require different modes of treatment. By Olaus Acrel.*—The tumours described in this paper are of two kinds. One of these, according to our author,  
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originates from what he terms a carcinomatous caries of some of the bones of the carpus, and becomes a cancerous fungus; the other, which he describes as being less frequent and dangerous, is said to be a species of atheroma, that is commonly situated about the joint and ligaments of the wrist. Both these species, he says, are so exactly alike in their external appearance, that he has seldom been able to distinguish one from the other before the skin and tendinous fascia with which they are covered have been removed by the knife.

That these tumours are rare diseases he concludes from his having, in the course of forty years practice in every part of surgery, met with only three cases of the former, and two of the latter species. Two instances of tumours, which seem to resemble the first or cancerous kind, are described by Petit in his treatise *Des Maladies des Os*, tom. ii. p. 507; and a description of two similar tumours is given by Ruysch in his *Observ. Anat. Chirurg.* p. 74. qbf. lxxxi. but of the second or atheromatous species, a case related by Gooch, in the second volume of his cases, p. 381, is the only instance that our author has been able to meet with in books.

The tumours of the first species, we are told,  
arise

arise either from the junction of the bones of the fore arm with those of the carpus, or wholly from the upper row of the latter. They differ in their size, shape, and consistence, as well as in the degree of pain that attends them, but are generally situated under the tendons, and the colour of the skin remains unchanged.

The only inconveniences complained of for some time by the patient in these cases are a sense of weight in the hand, and more or less impediment to the motion of the fingers. Like other cancerous diseases they advance slowly in the beginning, but at length suddenly increase in bulk.

The three cases that have fallen under our author's observation, and which are related at large in the paper before us, serve to shew how very inadequate the resources either of physic or surgery are to the disease in question. From internal remedies no relief can be expected, and a surgical operation tends only to accelerate the death of the patient; the best way, therefore, seems to be to attempt only a palliative mode of treatment.

Two of the patients ascribed the origin of their complaint to a blow, and the third to a sprain. The subject of the first case was a married



ried woman, aged 22 years. At the time she applied to our author the tumour was three inches in diameter. It had begun to appear about four years before this, but during the first three years its growth had been extremely slow.

After cutting through the skin the whole of the diseased mass was carefully separated from the surrounding tendons and cellular membrane, and completely extirpated without any considerable hæmorrhage. For some weeks after the operation the wound seemed disposed to heal kindly, but at length it assumed an unfavourable aspect. It became filled with a cancerous fungus, the patient was attacked with hectic fever and colliquative sweats, and the whole hand became tumid and painful.

The amputation of the hand was now recommended as the last resource, and the patient readily submitted to it, but it was not long before the stump appeared to be in a cancerous state, and she died eight weeks after the operation.

The second patient, whose case is related, was a man forty years of age. The tumour was six inches in length, four in breadth, and three in thickness. It was extirpated in the same manner as that just now described, and like that ter-

minated in the amputation of the hand, and in the death of the patient.

The subject of the third case was a female patient in the Royal Hospital at Stockholm. The tumour was flattened at the top and of considerable bulk. It adhered to the carpus by a kind of peduncle, and seemed to be free from any adhesion to the tendons, which, instead of passing over it as in the former cases, were to be felt on each side of it. After dividing the integuments a ligature was passed round the basis of the tumour, which dropped off in about seven weeks. At the end of four months the patient left the hospital with her hand in a cancerous state. We are not informed of the event of the case.

Of the atheromatous tumour only a single instance is related. The author supposes this species to be originally formed by a distension of some part of the capsular ligament of the bones of the carpus insinuating itself by degrees under the muscles, tendons, and aponeuroses of the palm of the hand, and forming a series of minute cysts communicating with one another and filled with concreted mucus. In the case here described the disease was supposed to have been brought on by a contusion, and the tumour  
by

by its bulk totally impeded the motion of the fingers. Upon making an incision into it only a small portion of inspissated mucus was discharged, and it was therefore deemed expedient to pass five setons through different parts of the tumour. These were kept in during fourteen weeks, but at the end of that time, although the suppuration had been constant and considerable, the disease was far from being removed, as a great part of the cyst was still remaining, and seemingly in a callous state, so as to be incapable of further suppuration. At this period of the treatment our author ventured to inject into the fistulous sinuses formed by the setons an irritating liquor, prepared by diluting the marine acid with water. This produced considerable inflammation of the hand and arm followed by a copious suppuration and large floughs, so that in about six weeks more the whole of the cyst was thought to be removed, and the patient had recovered the use of her hand and fingers.

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II. *Some observations on the present epidemic dysentery.* By Francis Geach, Surgeon of the Royal Hospital at Plymouth, and Fellow of the

*Royal Society.* 8vo. Baldwin, *London*, 1781.  
41 pages, 1s.

WE have here an account of a dysenteric fever that prevailed in Plymouth in September 1781.

The author observes, that it began with the usual symptoms of sickness at the stomach, anxiety at the *præcordia*, and griping in the belly. These symptoms were soon followed by bloody stools and mucus, in great quantities, with a constant tenesmus. The pulse in some patients at this time was hard and full; in others remarkably low and creeping, attended sometimes with a pungent heat of the skin, and often with partial and unprofitable sweats. The tongue was usually coated with a bilious mucus; the abdomen was tense, and in some cases there was a suppression of urine, or at least some difficulty in voiding it. As the disorder advanced, the discharge from the intestines became more and more bloody, the mucus in greater quantity, accompanied with much foetor, and at last by the smell and symptoms it might be supposed, that a mortification had taken place. What appearances there were after death, the author is unable to say, having had no opportunity to examine any deceased subject.

Speaking of the state of the weather at Plymouth previous to the appearance of the epidemic, Mr. Geach remarks, that the summers for some years past have been much warmer and drier than usual, and that although the dysentery has appeared more or less towards the autumnal equinox, it was till now chiefly confined to the troops in the barracks, whereas this year it became in a manner universal; for although it began with persons of a relaxed habit and children, yet at last persons of all ages and conditions were seized with it. Neither was there much difference observed, whether they were abstemious or not as to any particular food or drink. New unfermented cyder, the commonly alledged cause of the dry colic and dysentery at this season in other years, could not be adduced now, as there was hardly any cyder made. Raw oysters, however, we are told, eaten soon after their being taken out of the sea, almost universally brought a flux on the eaters. Many of the oysters indeed were as yet milky, and not come to their due state of firmness and healthiness.

The symptoms and progress of the disease were generally much the same; but it was observed, that those who lived in large, clean, and airy  
houses,

neither suffered so much, nor were so soon infected, as those who were confined to low, close dwellings, badly ventilated, and fuller of noxious effluvia.

Speculating with regard to the cause of this epidemic, our author observes, that “ its origin was with reason perhaps deduced from the winds, and from the planets, or from subterranean vapours, sulphureous, or other mineral effluvia thrown out into the air by earthquakes, or collected there in great abundance from long drought, from the evaporation of bogs and marshes, which abound with phlogiston, or a sulphureous principle.”

That there is a communication of matter between all the planets, and particularly of the electric fluid, and that this fluid may carry with it many noxious particles, he mentions as an opinion of the late Dr. Alcock, and spoken of in the memoirs of his life lately published; and as a proof that sulphureous steams are capable of producing the dysentery he relates the following curious fact: “ It was observed at one time, that almost all the men received into the hospital (at Plymouth) soon became dysenteric, and the flux was so destructive as to set all medicine, and all cure at defiance.  
“ This



“ This circumstance was mentioned to Dr. Max-  
 “ well, at that time a commissioner of the Sick  
 “ and Hurt Office, and then on his visit; who  
 “ thought at first this disorder might proceed  
 “ from the situation of the hospital, as it was  
 “ contiguous to a large marsh liable to inunda-  
 “ tions; but on my observing to him, that in  
 “ times past the disorder had not been parti-  
 “ cularly confined to that hospital, this reason  
 “ was given up. One day the Doctor remark-  
 “ ing, that the wards smelt strongly of sulphur  
 “ from the fumigation of bedding in an apart-  
 “ ment connected with the rooms where the  
 “ sick lay, he ordered the fumigation to be  
 “ discontinued; and the flux thereupon entirely  
 “ ceased.” To this passage the author has  
 added the following note: “ A young man at  
 “ Tamerton, by a long and large use of the  
 “ *Flos Sulphuris*, fell into a dreadful dysentery.  
 “ The blood was so broken, that he bled at  
 “ the caruncles, and died altogether putrid.”

The method of cure that succeeded best with  
 our author in this disease was as follows: When  
 he was called in early, the patient, if the pulse  
 were full, was bled; but he never saw, except  
 in one instance, the blood buffy and tenacious.

Then,

Then, whether the patient was bled or not, a vomit of ipecacoanha was given, and the robust were purged with four grains of calomel and thirty grains of rhubarb. No attention was paid to irritation, nor laudanum given, to take off the spasms, as he always observed that the irritation and mucus ceased at once upon a due discharge of fæces ; the descent of which shewed that the disorder was in a fair way of being subdued. For during the violence of the complaint, much blood and mucus were voided, with little or nothing excrementitious. It was also remarkable, that no fæces came down, till the mucous coat on the tongue began to clear away from the sides of it; nay in some cases not till the whole tongue became clean: and this observation, we are told, held so universally true, that it might be predicted, almost to a certainty, that as soon as the mucus on the tongue began to separate and disappear; the fæces would soon descend, and the disorder relent. Every token of amendment then followed. The pulse became calm and open, the eyes clear, the skin soft, the perspiration equable. If the first dose of calomel did not procure a discharge (and the abovementioned first dose did not always succeed) rhubarb to the quantity of thirty grains

grains was repeated, together with an ounce of spirituous tincture of rhubarb; and these, together with two grains of emetic tartar in eight ounces of water, were taken daily till the end was answered, the emetic tartar being used gradually, in small quantities. Mr. Geach has seen, however, more than once, that a violent vomiting from the use of this medicine or ipecacoanha removed the complaint at once, tho' blood and mucus had just before been discharged in great quantities.

The patient was allowed to drink freely of tamarind decoction, and to sip mutton broth without a scrupulous regard to the fever, but was not allowed panada, water gruel, or any thing that might tend to inflation.

In some instances, after the emetic had been given, the vomiting continued, and large quantities of a porraceous fluid were thrown up. Under this circumstance nothing succeeded so well as calomel and rhubarb, together with the absorbents, *magnesia*, *testacea*, &c. and this porraceous vomiting always ceased on the removal of the intestinal obstruction.

The author observes, that the fever seemed to claim most attention, and that when this was removed, the bloody stools, the mucus, and of

course the tenesmus gave way, so that it was seldom necessary to give opiates or astringents, unless a diarrhœa supervened, and continued long after the dysentery was at an end. When this happened, lime water mixed with milk proved very efficacious. But even here he tells us, the utmost caution was required, for inflation of the belly sometimes followed; and as often as this occurred, there was a necessity again to administer an opening medicine. And, it is worthy of remark, that very often, though the dysentery had run out to a great length, though the fæces had come down, yet when the belly was inflated after the use of astringents, the tongue would again become white, though not coated. In short, while this whiteness remained, whether astringents had been used or not, if the patient had still much pain, and the fever did but little abate, there was reason to suspect that indurated fæces were still behind, and Mr. Geach has seen large scybals actually expelled (after a fortnight's illness) to the speedy recovery of the patient.

As the disorder attacked every one nearly in a similar manner, it yielded to the same mode of treatment. Tender and delicate women were found to require much the same medicine and process, as the more robust. Women, who  
gave

gave suck, were enjoined to keep their infants at the breast, and when this injunction was not followed by the mother, she felt an inconvenience. Her face flushed, and her head became disordered by an augmentation of fever. Neither did the infants themselves suffer by such maternal indulgence; for our author never observed that the infection, which seized on the mother and her attendants, ever affected the child in consequence of her giving suck. Infection came from without, another way. To guard against this infection vinegar was kept boiling in the chambers of the sick, or the bark of Cascarilla was burnt, which in a great measure corrected the horrible fœtor usually attendant on the advanced stage of the disorder.

It is remarked by our author, that the dysenteries that have prevailed at different times in the Royal Hospital at Plymouth, have in general soon yielded to a grain or two of ipecacoanha, and half a drachm of cream of tartar, given every sixth or eighth hour, together with tamarind whey or tamarind decoction. The patients to whom these medicines were administered, for the most part were scorbutic; and their fluxes were brought on (as was thought) by a sudden transition from salt provisions, affording too little nutriment, to

a diet of fresh meat and vegetables, affording too much. But in this epidemic dysentery these means failed, and it was found that ipecacoanha was but of little use unless it operated as an emetic, and then it relieved the patient considerably. The same thing was observed of emetic tartar.

With regard to the bark and opium, recommended and given by many in this disorder, even in its first stage, Mr. Geach remarks, that the antiseptic virtue attributed to the one, and the power of calming irritation for a time existing in the other, will not, as far as he has experienced, subdue this fever and flux, but will sometimes do mischief by stopping up an evil, which, if the patient die not of the fever, will burst out elsewhere; or, if they should not have such an effect, they generally will inflate the belly, and this inflation can only be cured by a natural or artificial return of the flux, or at least a diarrhoea.

In a note to this part of the work the author informs us, that in a high degree of alkalescent scurvy cream of tartar used as a purgative, answers, in many respects, better than the bark; frequent doses of the latter given to remove that disorder, when the patients have been fallow and bloated,



bloated, having caused large indurations in the glands of the neck and axilla; but by some weeks continuance of cream of tartar, such swellings have disappeared or suppurated. He has seen this effect lately in six patients received from ships into the Royal Hospital.

In treating of the diet of the sick in the epidemic dysentery, Mr. Geach observes, that few rules could be laid down. Mutton broth till the appetite returned was the chief sustenance. Some of his patients at the beginning of the disorder were eager for cyder; and cyder well fermented, and old, was given them not with any ill, but a good effect. One precaution however was observed, not to deluge their stomachs with large draughts of this or any other liquor. They were also, at their own request, indulged with beer without any prejudice.

Inspection of the stools, however disagreeable, is recommended to the practitioner, as it may often determine what medicine should be administered. On this subject Mr. Geach remarks, that when the discharge is crude and frothy, the use of a purgative in small doses is indicated, while that which is ragged, green, or watery, shews that the disorder will be either fatal or protracted to a long period.

Whatever

Whatever be the contents of the stools, they are directed to be removed as soon as possible, and the foul air purified by fumigation and fire, and dissipated by opening the windows, in order to prevent contagion. The same precautions are recommended with respect to bedding and cloathing. Negligence in these matters, observes our author, may in part be productive of the disorder, and at any rate will tend to aggravate it, and spread the infection to others.

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III. Antonii de Haen *quondam* S. C. R. *Apostol. Majestatis Consilarii et Archiatri, ac Medicinæ in alma et Antiquissima Vindobonensi Universitate Professoris Primarii, &c. Tomus tertius Rationis Medendi Continuatae seu operum posthumorum Volumen I. Collegit ediditque Maximilianus Stoll, S. C. R. Apostolicæ Majestatis Consil. in eademque Universitate Professor Praxeos P. O. 8vo. Viennæ, 1779. p. 469.*

**D**R. STOLL, the editor of this posthumous collection, informs us in his preface, that he engaged in it at the request of Baron Storck, to whom the late Dr. de Haen bequeathed his papers.

This

This first volume, which is ornamented with a good engraving of the author, is to be followed by two others that are to complete the work. The titles of the six sections, into which it is divided, are as follows: I. *Casuum variorum decas.* II. *Aphorismi de Diagnosi et Prognosi in acutis, et Hippocraticæ circa urinas doctrinæ compendium.* III. *Historia Morborum præcipue Variolarum anno 1744 & 1745 Hagæ-Batavorum observatarum.* IV. *De tussi puerorum convulsiva, finiente anno 1746 & initio 1747 Hagæ-Batavorum observata.* V. *Historia Medica annorum 1747 & 1748 Hagæ-Batavorum conscripta.* VI. *Dissertatio de colica pictonum, olim ab auctore edita, nunc vero multis in locis ab eodem auctore correctæ, et casibus ægrorum ineditis locupleta.*

The subject of the first of the ten cases related in the first section was a married woman, aged 24, who from her infancy had been subject to cough. The chief symptoms of the disease were lassitude, head-ach, oppression at the breast, cough, quick pulse, fever, difficult deglutition, and at times pain in the abdomen. A minute journal is given of the case from the 19th of April to the 22d of the following month, when the patient died. An account is added of the appearances on dissection. The difficulty of swallowing was probably

bably merely the effect of spasm, as no cause of it could be discovered in the dead body. The lungs were found diseased, and adhering to the pleura; and in the abdomen an intromission was observed in the intestinum ileum.

In the second case we have an account of a *hernia femoralis* in a woman aged 59 years. The case terminated fatally, though the intestine was reduced fifteen hours before the death of the patient. The vomiting and singultus ceased immediately after the reduction of the hernia, but no stool followed it. On dissection the hernia was found to have been occasioned by a portion of the *intestinum ileum* which was free from obstruction, and not in a diseased state. A pound of crude mercury, which had been given to the patient, was found in the stomach and duodenum, having been prevented from passing further by the pressure of the omentum, which was much diseased.

The third is the case of a shoemaker, who from his 22d to his 29th year had been troubled with symptoms of the stone, for which he was admitted into the hospital, where he remained under the author's care from Feb. 1756 to June 1757, when he was dismissed cured. An account of his case is to be found in the  
second

second and third volumes of the *Ratio Medendi*. From that time he remained perfectly free from any symptoms of calculus, but was subject to frequent attacks of pleurisy, which at length proved fatal to him in October 1773. On dissection no calculus was found in the bladder, but upon opening it, it appeared of a white colour, distended, rough, and as it were of a callous consistence. Externally at the fundus of the bladder the peritonæum was reflected over an enormous mass of fat.

The fourth case affords us the dissection of a dropsical woman, of whose disease no account was to be found in De Haen's papers. The cutaneous veins of the neck and thorax were varicous, and on opening the abdomen a large cyst was discovered adhering every where to the peritonæum, and containing about 24 quarts of a foetid reddish water. A great part of the sac was filled with a firm, fleshy-like mass, and in some places with a steatomatous and atheromatous substance divided into several smaller cysts, in all of which there was the same kind of fluid as in the larger one. The body of the uterus was pressed upwards by this tumour, and the *cervix uteri* stretched four inches in length. The tubes and ovaria were perfectly found.

The ileum was compressed by the hard part of the tumour, and together with the jejunum was distended to three inches in diameter. The omentum adhered to the anterior surface of the cyst, and its veins were sufficiently dilated to admit a goose quill. The stomach, liver, and spleen were free from disease, but pushed up higher than usual.

The fifth was a case of what the author calls a *pleuro-peripneumonia*. The patient was a maid servant, 24 years old. The disease began with painful respiration, anxiety, colic pains, vomiting, and a strong, full, equal pulse. The state of the pulse continued the same till within five hours of her death. The vomiting ceased on the seventh day of the disease. Here the author takes occasion to inform us, that it was a general observation in the hospital, that in acute diseases the more the patients drink the less they vomit, (*quo plus bibunt ægri, eo minus vomunt*). On examining the dead body of this patient the cavities of the heart, aorta, and pulmonary artery were found filled with a polypous concretion. The lungs, pleura, and diaphragm were in a highly inflamed state.

The sixth is a case of jaundice succeeded by dropsy, in a weaver twenty-five years old.

The



The disease terminated in death, and on dissection sixteen quarts of a yellowish and foetid water were found in the cavity of the abdomen. The liver was indurated, diminished in bulk so as to weigh only a pound and nine ounces, and was in some parts of a brownish-yellow colour, and in others in a gangrenous state. The gall bladder was small, and its coats thickened. Its fundus was gangrenous, and it contained a dark red coloured sanies. Its neck was obstructed by a gall stone, of an oval shape, of about the size of a small filberd nut. The ductus choledochus communis remained open, so that the hepatic bile had a free course into the intestine. The spleen was harder and larger than usual. The pancreas was of a cartilaginous consistence, and composed as it were of a great number of small tubercles. The lungs abounded with tubercles, so as to exhibit nearly the same appearance as the pancreas. The dura mater, periosteum, and ligaments had acquired a yellowish colour, but the pia mater was less affected. The medullary substance of the brain was extremely white, and the cortex was likewise free from any yellow tinge.

In the fifth case we have an account of a rheumatic fever, of which the patient recovered.

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The seventh contains the dissection of a youth, thirteen years old, who was drowned in the Danube. On examining the brain of this subject the veins of the pia mater, and the sinuses of the dura mater at the basis of the cranium, appeared greatly distended with blood, but the arteries were in their natural state. The ventricles of the brain were empty. The consistence of the cerebrum was extremely firm. The lungs were turgid with air, and swam when thrown into water.

After this follows the dissection of a dropical head. The subject was a boy four years and a half old. Two years before his death he was observed to be less lively and active than usual, but in other respects was thought to be in good health. By degrees his head was found to increase in bulk in a greater proportion than the rest of his body, so that during the last year of his life he was obliged to rest it almost constantly on a pillow. His senses remained undisturbed to the last, and he was never convulsed. At length he became more and more disposed to sleep, and in this state expired quietly June 5th, 1775.

On measuring the size of the head, a tape carried from the forehead to the occiput was found to measure two (Vienna) feet wanting an inch;  
and

and from the vertex to the chin two feet. Throughout the whole coronal future the bones were dilated a finger's breadth, but the sagittal and occipital futures were pretty well closed.

Upon opening the cranium no fluid was observable between the bones and the dura mater, or between the latter and the pia mater. This last membrane and the cerebrum appeared in a natural state, but the latter was not so deeply furrowed as in healthy subjects. The lateral ventricles were distended to an enormous bulk. The quantity of water collected in them amounted to upwards of three pints. The *thalami nervorum opticorum* were so compressed by the weight of fluid as to be hardly perceptible. The third and fourth ventricles, though filled with water from their communication with those above, were not distended.

The cerebellum externally was in a purulent state; internally it was composed of a yellow, homogeneous cheese-like substance, without the least vestige of the *arbor vitæ*.

The tenth and last is the case of an asthmatic woman, who died of apoplexy in the fifth month of her pregnancy. On dissection the veins of the pia mater were found to be varicous, and the lungs considerably infarcted.

With

With regard to the other sections of the present volume we shall content ourselves with having enumerated their contents. The second volume of the work is to contain the most interesting cases that occurred to the author during his residence at the Hague, and in the last will be given his medical correspondence with Van Swieten.

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IV. *Dissertatio Medica de Tussi Convulsiva Infantum.* Auctore Carolo Strack, M. D. *Eminentiss. ac Celsif. Princ. Elect. Mogunt. Jud. Aul. Conf. Institut. Med. Profess. publ. et ord. Facult. Med. Assess. Electoral. Utilium Scient. Academ. Erford. et Princ. Hassiac. Gieffon. Socio.* 8vo. Moguntiae, p. 28.

THE *tussis convulsiva*, or *hooping cough*, is one of those diseases, concerning which very different opinions have been maintained by medical authors. Some have supposed the principal seat of the complaint to be in the stomach; others in the lungs; while one of the latest writers on the subject alledges, that the cause of it is to be sought for neither in the lungs nor the stomach, but in the intestinal canal. A pathology of the disease

disease different from either of those is given in the present performance, which is the production of a judicious and experienced writer.

Dr. Strack sets out with defining the disease, after which he traces its symptoms and progress with great accuracy. It begins, he observes, with a slight cough, which neither quickens the pulse, nor disturbs the sleep or the appetite of the patient. It is attended, however, with this peculiar circumstance, that the throat is more affected by it than the thorax. In this manner it proceeds for a week, and sometimes longer, when it becomes more violent and frequent, so as to disturb the patient's breathing, and at the end of about the third week it seems to be at its height.

Of the disease at this period the author presents us with the following description, which we shall give in his own words :

“ Ronchus in gutture auditur, qualem fere blandiens felis, ubi Heri circum crura mollis serpit, rotare confuescit. Sequitur titillatio ibidem, proximeque tussis vehementer erumpit, & ut inceptit, spiritum convulsorio modo expellere atque ad extremum usque halitum exprimere continuat: adeo ut eundem æger vix arripere intusque reducere queat. Vere veluti illa tussis, quæ

quæ bibentem aliquem hominem, siquid potus illapsum in ejus glottidem est, præfocat atque convellit. Aut quemadmodum ira excandescentes pueri, qui cum plorare incipiunt, animam (ut matres loqui solent, & cuique notum est) retinent. Inde facies fursum pulso atque in venas coacto sanguine turget, profundeque rubra atque livida evenit. Ob quem utique colorem iste tussi nomen lividæ (*der blaue Husten*) a nostratibus datum est. Et cum tali labore pulsus supra modum ex pulmone atque ad suffocationem usque expressus omnis aër est, quærunt item pueri eundem magna vi laboriosoque conatu altum inter acutumque suspirium arripere: idque nituntur levata cervice, fixisque scapulis, atque magno oris hiatu, diductisque trucum oculorum palpebris; asthmaticorum instar. Ob id pansa brachia parieti opponere solent, scilicet ut tali fulcimento adjuti aërem fortius trahere queant; quem ut traxerunt, similiter iterum per tussis violentiam ad extremum usque spiritum extendunt; iterumque vi atque anxia agitatione revelunt. Sic quæsexies deciesve repetitis continuo vicibus. Horribile profecto visu & metu plenum spectaculum!

“ Finito isto tormento ægri lassī sunt, & membra fatigata habent, atque obdormiscunt. Vere veluti



*veluti qui a morbo caduco torpent, atque somno opprimuntur."*

The patient experiences, we are told, from twenty to thirty of these attacks every day. During the first weeks of the disease only a thin lymph is discharged from the throat, fauces, and mouth; but by degrees the mucus becomes of a thicker consistence, resembling the white of an egg, and is coughed up with great difficulty. After this follows a thick, white discharge, not unlike the cream of milk coagulated, and in proportion as this is ejected the cough becomes milder and less frequent, gradually decreasing for the space of two or three weeks. At length, observes our author, only a slight cough remains, which comes on once or twice every evening, continuing to return in this manner during two or three months if the disorder is left to itself.

With regard to the cause of this disease, Dr. Strack is persuaded, that it is seated in the glands of the fauces and glottis, particularly in those which are placed between the larynx and the basis of the tongue. That the seat of the complaint is not below the larynx or in the lungs themselves, he thinks probable, because in the

intervals of coughing the breathing is perfectly free and unaffected, and because the cough itself is exactly similar to that which is produced by irritating the larynx, as happens, for instance, when any of our food or drink passes into it. That the source of the disease is to be found in the stomach, he supposes to be equally unlikely, the vomiting which is brought on by the cough being the effect, not of any morbid state of the stomach, but merely of the cause just now mentioned, the irritation of the glottis. As a further proof of this, he adds, that the patients have no foulness of the tongue, no sense of oppression after meals, both which circumstances would take place were the stomach affected.

After having explained his ideas concerning the seat of the disease, our author proceeds to point out the two stages which he thinks are observable in its progress. These are the *stadium cruditatis*, and the *stadium concoctionis*, the latter he describes as taking place when the cough begins to abate, and when the mucus brought up is white and grumous. The more it exhibits of this clotted appearance the more complete is said to be the concoction.

During the first of these stages, the author contents himself, if the patient is an infant, with  
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prescribing a linctus composed of two drachms of *ol. amygdal.* mixed with yolk of egg, and an ounce of syrup of manna with the addition of two grains of *sulphur aurat. antimon.* Of this medicine small doses are directed to be administered frequently. The bowels are to be occasionally emptied by a glyster; and when the symptoms have been violent he has experienced good effects from a blister between the shoulders, and from venæsection.

The food during this period, he observes, should be light, easy of digestion, and taken in small quantities, so as to avoid distending the stomach. Whenever the patient coughs violently, and the mucus is heard loosened and rattling in the throat, he recommends the introducing a finger into the mouth in order to bring it away, and if between the fits of coughing there appears to be danger of suffocation, we are advised to blow strongly into the patient's mouth in order to distend the lungs. For the same reason large, airy apartments are recommended, and in bed he advises the patients to lie lightly covered, without curtains, and to sleep on one side rather than in a supine posture.

When the disease has arrived at its second

stage, Dr. Strack prescribes five grains of ipecacuanha as an emetic, after which he returns to the use of the linctus, and at the end of seven or eight days repeats the vomit. After this second puke he has generally observed, that the cough and other symptoms have been almost entirely removed, and a mild purgative has been sufficient to complete the cure. By this mode of treatment he assures us, that in general the disease has seldom extended itself beyond four weeks.

Towards the end of the work he takes occasion to remark, that he has never seen any one attacked a second time with this disease.

In an appendix to this little work the author presents us with several aphorisms under the title of *Positiones*, from which we shall select the following:

“ Qui choreæ sancti Viti causam in nervis quærent, longe a recto aberrant.”

“ Qui pueri cum magnis genitalibus & pendulis testiculis nascuntur, et densa supercilia et claucos oculos habent, hi ante loquelam tabe consumuntur.”

“ Viri torosi, densam et crassam cutim habentes pilis setosis hirtam, barbam item densam, fortesque capillos, si simul latæ et humilis staturæ

turæ sunt, ut plurimum 60 annos non supervivunt. Moriuntur autem vel ob corruptum hepar, vel ob hydropem."

" Glabri et delicatiores, si sobrie vivunt, seniores fiunt."

" Cicuta si vel urinam vel sudorem cum pruritu pellit, juvat. Si non, non."

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## SECTION II.

### ESSAYS AND OBSERVATIONS.

- I. *An account of an abscess of the Mediastinum, mistaken for an Aneurism. By an ingenious Surgeon and teacher of Anatomy lately deceased. Communicated by a member of the Society. Read December 10, 1781.*

**I**T has been observed, that a suppuration sometimes takes place between the two laminæ of the pleura that compose the mediastinum, and in such cases we are advised by M. de la Martiniere\*, in his ingenious Memoir on this subject, to trepan the sternum. But a disease of this kind occurs so rarely, that some practitioners of great knowledge and experience have doubted

\* Mem. de l'Acad. de Chirurgie, Tome IV.

the possibility of its existence. It is certain, however, that several cases of this sort have happened, and I remember about the year 1758 to have seen an instance of it in a strong, middle-aged man, by occupation a porter, who, in carrying a heavy burden along the street, fell with his breast against the pavement.

He was admitted into an hospital in London, and complained of great pain about the sternum, the integuments of which were much bruised, but no fracture either of the sternum or ribs could be discovered by the most accurate examination.

Venæsection, gentle evacuations by stool, a cooling regimen, and other means were employed to obviate any inflammatory symptoms that might arise. The patient complained of pain and difficulty in breathing, and in a few days after his admission a tumour began to appear about the middle of the sternum, the part that had been injured by the fall. This swelling increased by degrees to a considerable bulk, and was attended with a pulsation, like that of an aneurism, which was easily to be felt by placing a finger on each side of the sternum.

These appearances induced the surgeons to treat the case as an aneurism of the aorta. Venæsection



mæsection was frequently repeated, and the patient was directed to be kept quiet. The integuments, however, became gradually thinner and thinner, and at length burst, but instead of an extravasation of arterial blood and the death of the patient, both which were expected to take place, a great quantity of pus was discharged from the opening. The nature of the case being now understood, the wound was dilated, and the man obtained a cure.

It is observable, that in M. de la Martiniere's paper just now referred to, not a single case is related in which the trepan was applied to the sternum before the bursting of the tumour, and indeed we have as yet no characterizing symptoms laid down by which we can with certainty be enabled to distinguish this from some other diseases; as the pain, difficulty of breathing, and syncope that are said to attend it will likewise accompany a fracture of the sternum, and in the case just now related there was no particular symptom present that could lead us to distinguish it from an aneurism of the aorta.

II. *A case of Tussis convulsiva attended with Emphysema, that terminated fatally. Communicated by F. Swedjar, M. D. Physician in London. Read December 17, 1781.*

THE following case of tussis convulsiva, on account of some singular circumstances that attended it, will perhaps not be deemed unworthy the attention of the Society.

A strong, healthy boy, about four years old, was attacked in June 1779 with symptoms of the whooping cough. The disease went on in its usual way, but at the end of a month the fits of coughing became uncommonly violent. Bleeding, emetics, a blister to the back, and a variety of antispasmodic medicines were tried without effect. At length a considerable tumour was perceived near the trachea, which upon examination was found to contain air. The patient's breathing became extremely difficult, and was attended with considerable wheezing. In less than twelve hours the whole body became emphysematous. The nature of the disease was now clearly ascertained, and the parents were informed of the danger of the case and of the necessity there was of puncturing the skin in order to discharge the air; but they obstinately refused

refused to allow any such operation to be performed, and the child died the next day. The parents, who, like many other persons in the lower ranks of life, abounded with prejudices, would not permit the dead body to be inspected, so that we can only hazard a conjecture concerning the means by which the cellular membrane became so distended with air as to bring on a fatal emphysema. Is it not probable therefore, all circumstances considered, that the hooping cough, under which the child laboured, by its violence ruptured the ligamentous substance connecting the rings of the trachea, and so afforded an opening, through which the air gradually insinuated itself into the cells of the *tela cellulosa*?

### SECTION III.

MEDICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL NEWS.

THE Royal Medical Society at Paris have proposed the following question for a prize of 600 livres: “ What are the signs that “ announce a disposition to Phthisis Pulmonalis, “ and what are the means of preventing the “ attack, or stopping the progress of that dis-  
VOL. II. N<sup>o</sup> VI. F f f “ ease ?

“ case?” The dissertations on this subject are to be written in Latin or French, and sent to M. Vicq. D’Azyr, Secretary to the Society, before the 1st of January 1783.

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The Royal Academy of Sciences at Copenhagen have offered a gold medal of the value of 100 rix dollars to the person “ who shall  
“ carry to a higher degree of perfection and ac-  
“ curacy the means of ascertaining the salubrity  
“ of the air, and who shall confirm the truth  
“ of his precepts by new experiments.” The dissertations on this subject are to be written in Latin, Danish, French, or German, and sent before the 31st of August 1782 to M. de Luxdorph, Knight of the Order of Danebrog and President of the Society.

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The Abbé Mann, of the Academy of Sciences at Bruffels, after having been long subject to the gout, began about three years ago to take the *Extractum Cicutæ*, in the use of which he has persevered ever since, and for the last eighteen months has had no return of his complaint. We are informed that he means soon to publish an account of his case.

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Mr.

Mr. Rinman, an ingenious Swedish chemist, has invented a method of lining copper and other culinary utensils with an enamel composed of equal parts of fusible spar and gypsum, calcined and powdered. After moistening the surface of the metal this composition is directed to be spread over it, and then the vessel is to be exposed to a certain degree of heat.

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On Monday, July the 9th 1781, Dr. Morizot des Landes, physician at Paris, was called to the assistance of the Jacobin Monks in that city. These persons, who were twenty-one in number, complained of violent head-ach, pain of the bowels, diarrhœa, excessive weakness of the whole body, particularly of the legs, and a constant pain at the fore part of the thighs. All of them had more or less of fever, and some were troubled with cramp in the calves of their legs. They who were first attacked had likewise experienced acute pain at the stomach, and anxiety about the præcordia.

So many persons complaining at the same time of the same symptoms left no room to doubt that a common cause had acted on them all. It

appeared that on the preceding Friday and Saturday their dinners had consisted of fish dressed on Thursday evening in a copper saucepan, and that the cook after drawing off the water had poured vinegar on the fish, which in this state had been suffered to remain for a considerable time in the vessel. Some of the monks began to be affected on the Friday, the rest not till the day following. From this account it appeared clear that their complaints originated from the poison of copper.

The remedies employed by Dr. des Landes consisted of mild purges, glysters, broths, and diluting, mucilaginous liquors. By means of these all the monks were perfectly recovered in five or six days, but a visitor, who dined at the convent on the Saturday, and who took an emetic, continued in a very ill state of health till the month of September.—*Journ. de Med.*

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M. Dombay, the botanist mentioned in a former part\* of this volume, has sent to his friend M. de la Lande at Paris, a specimen of *Quinoa* seed, which is said to be equal to rice in

\* Page 274.



goodness. It is produced by a species of *chenopodium* that grows on the mountains of Peru, and might probably be cultivated to advantage in Europe. Each plant produces about a thousand seeds.

M. Dombay has likewise sent home two preparations of potatoes, one called by the Peruvians *pape seca* and the other *Cbuno*, from which those people derive a considerable part of their nourishment.

The *pape seca* is prepared by boiling the potatoes in water, after which they are peeled, and exposed to the sun and air till they are perfectly dry.

The process for making the *Cbuno* consists in freezing the potatoes, and depriving them of their peel, after which they are placed in a current of water during fifteen or twenty days, and then dried in the sun.

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Extract of a letter from Dennis Ryan, M. D. to Dr. Simmons, F. R. S. dated at Bath in Jamaica, April 24th 1781.

“ During a month’s residence at this place I have carefully noticed the state of the atmosphere.

sphere. I shall not trouble you with the whole of my journal, but shall content myself with giving you the greatest and least heights of the thermometer in the shade. My observations have generally been made three times a day; viz. at seven o'clock in the morning, at noon, and at ten at night.

			Greatest Height.
Morning,	<i>April</i> 15, 21, and 23,	—	78°
Noon,	— 12, 20,	—	84
Night,	— 17, 18,	—	79
			Least Height.
Morning,	<i>April</i> 2 and 10,	—	70°
Noon,	— 22 and 23,	—	79
Night,	— 11,	—	74

In order to ascertain the heat of the Bath water, I immersed a thermometer into a calibash full of it, and in the space of about two minutes the mercury rose to 122°. I then held it about a minute under the spout as it comes down from the rock, and the quicksilver pointed at 123°, which, if I mistake not, is by some degrees greater than the heat of the Bath water in England.

The water at its source emits a strong sulphureous vapour, which affects a person at the distance of several yards. It is very sparkling  
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in the glass, and in its taste resembles the English Bath water, but as yet there has been no satisfactory analysis of it. As an external application it is found to do good in obstinate ulcers, and in gouty and rheumatic pains. Taken internally it affords great relief in bilious complaints, and in obstructions of the abdominal viscera, but if administered without the previous use of some laxative medicines, it is apt to bring on great heat, head-ach, and other disagreeable symptoms."

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At the anniversary meeting of the Royal Society of London, on the 30th of November 1781, Mr. William Herschel of Bath received the Copleian medal from the hands of the President, as a reward for his having discovered a new star.

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A new work by Sir Clifton Wintringham, Bart. entitled *Adversaria Medica*, is now in the press.

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Some experiments have lately been made in the Royal Infirmary at Edinburgh with the  
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*digitalis purpurea*, or *fox-glove*, which prove it to be a medicine of considerable efficacy in dropsy.

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### P R O M O T I O N S.

*Nov.* 3. Thomas Norford, M. A. of Caius College, Cambridge, to be M. B.—9. Mr. J. Cahuac to be apothecary to the London Dispensary.

*Dec.* 4. Mr. Patrick Maxwell to be surgeon to the 54th regiment of foot in the room of Mr. — Gordon.—Mr. John Johnston of the 37th regiment of foot to be apothecary to the General Hospital in North America in the room of Richard Proctor, M. D.—8. Mr. Charles Kerr to be surgeon to the 37th regiment of foot.—15. Devereux Mytton, M. B. of Pembroke College, Oxford, to be M. D.—20. Dr. Theodore Forbes Leith, physician at Greenwich, to be a Fellow of the Royal Society.

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### D E A T H S.

*Nov.* 9. At Pangbourn-lane near Reading, in an advanced age, Peter Zinzam, M. D. author of the *Snipe*, a poem.

*Dec.*

*Nov.* 30. At Paris, Theodore Tronchin, M.D. Citizen of Geneva, Member of the Royal Academy of Surgery at Paris, and of the Royal Societies of London, Berlin, and Stockholm, and First Physician to the Duke of Orleans.

*Dec.* 20. Mr. James Alexander, apothecary in Dartmouth-street, Westminster..

#### SECTION IV.

##### MONTHLY CATALOGUE.

1. **A** Complete collection of the Medical and Philosophical works of *John Fothergill*, M. D. F. R. S. and S. A. Member of the Royal Colleges of Physicians at London and Edinburgh; of the Royal Medical Society at Paris; and of the American Philosophical Society. With an account of his life and occasional notes. By *John Elliot*, M. D. 8vo. *Walker*, London 1781. 685 pages, with three copper plates. 6s. 6d. in boards.

The different articles of this work are arranged according to the order of time in which they were originally published. The first in the list is the author's *Thesis de Emeticorum usu in variis Morbis tractandis*, printed at Edinburgh

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in 1736. This is followed by *Remarks on the neutral salts of plants, and on Terra foliata Tartari* from the 5th volume of the Edinburgh Medical Essays; and by four papers from the Philosophical Transactions; viz. 1. 'Essay upon the origin of Amber.' 2. 'Observations on the Manna Persicum.' 4. 'Observations on a case published in the Medical Essays, &c. of recovering a man dead in appearance.' 3. 'De Diaphragmate fisso, mutatis quorundam viscerum sedibus, in cadavere puellæ decem mensium, observatis, Epistola.' 4. 'An account of some observations and experiments made in Siberia, extracted from the preface to Gmelin's *Flora Sibirica*.' After these we are presented with the author's *Account of the putrid sore throat*, and the remainder of the collection consists of his papers from the Medical Observations and Inquiries, and his accounts of the late Mr. Peter Collinson and Dr. Russell.—The whole is accurately printed on a good paper, so as to form a cheap and elegant volume, which has the merit of containing only such pieces as were published by the author in his life-time. In the Gentleman's Magazine, and other periodical publications, there are several little essays on the weather and reigning diseases, on the Simarouba, and other subjects, which are considered,



sidered, and with good reason, as the production of Dr. Fothergill's pen; but as they were in general written in haste, and were never publicly avowed by the author, we consider the omission of them in the present collection as a mark of the editor's judgment, and of his respect for the memory of Dr. Fothergill.

In a future number of our Journal we mean to present our readers with some extracts from Dr. Elliot's life of the author.

2. Cases in Midwifery; with references, quotations, and remarks. By *William Perfect*, surgeon, of West-Malling, in Kent. Vol. I. 8vo. *Fisber*, Rochester; and *Doddsley*, London, 1781. 401 pages, 6s.

Mr. Perfect professes to give this work to the public as a collection of facts, faithfully related, and as the result of attentive observation, and of a long and pretty extensive experience. Several of the cases were communicated by letter to the late Dr. Colin Mackenzie, whose answers to the author are inserted in the work.

To his account of each case Mr. Perfect has added quotations and remarks from different writers on midwifery. The cases are sixty-nine in number; amongst them we meet with several interesting facts.

In the seventh, which is a case of twins, we have an account of an uncommon structure of the funis. "The two placentas—says our author—adhered so closely together as to appear almost one compact body, with two distinct chords, one of which was *bifurcated* to the length of two inches and three quarters next to its insertion into the placenta."—In a letter to the author on this occasion Dr. Mackenzie speaks of this *bifurcated funis* 'as a most extraordinary appearance,' and what he never had met with. In the same letter Dr. M. speaking of the forceps, observes, that "the rules for their application, which are laid down by Smellie, are truly the most valuable parts of his book."

The ninth case affords an instance of twins, with an intervention of six days between the births of the two children.

In the fourteenth we have an account of a woman who in six successive labours had an uncommon contraction of the uterus, preventing the expulsion of the placenta, which was delivered, each time, spontaneously about the third day.—The 19th and 20th are cases of abortion at the end of four and six months, in consequence of the small pox. In the 49th case the  
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delivery was obstructed by the extraordinary size of the shoulders, the width of the body at that part being nearly eight inches and a quarter. The child was dead and somewhat enlarged by putrefaction. The author effected the delivery by means of the blunt hook. The placenta was in many parts of a cartilaginous consistence. After this follows a case of flooding and convulsions, which terminated fatally just at the time our author entered the patient's chamber. Upon introducing his hand into the uterus the child was found presenting with the thorax. It was easily turned and delivered, but died in a minute after its birth. The 68th case affords an instance of a fatal retroversion of the uterus.

From Dr. Mackenzie's letters to our author we shall present our readers with the following extract: " It has been the opinion of many  
 " English and French authors, that there frequently have been laborious labours, when  
 " the *vertex* has first offered; but in all the  
 " difficult ones I have attended, where the head  
 " has presented, the ear was the part next the  
 " *os tincæ*. It is very seldom a labour can require the use of instruments, and they ought  
 " never to be hastily used. Some *os tincæ*s will  
 " take much longer time for dilating, than  
 others.

“ others. Patience is a venerable maxim, par-  
 “ ticularly in the profession of midwifery. La  
 “ Motte had this virtue in great perfection, and  
 “ was commendable for submitting so much to  
 “ providence and the decision of nature; who,  
 “ when she finds a difficulty attending the ex-  
 “ clusion of the foetus, will sometimes take  
 “ two, three, four, or even five or six days,  
 “ to prepare the passage by lubricating it with  
 “ a mucus, and then will make her last effort  
 “ with the utmost force; which is generally  
 “ very decisive, unless the child should be too  
 “ large, præternaturally situated, or the pelvis  
 “ too narrow.”

This first volume is to be followed by a  
 second, which is said to be already in the press,  
 and in great forwardness.

3. Chemical essays. By *Richard Watson*, D. D.  
 F. R. S. and Regius Professor of Divinity in  
 the University of Cambridge. 12mo. Cambridge,  
 1781. Vol. I. 349 p. Vol. II. 368 pages.

The author informs us in his Preface, that  
 his principal view in undertaking this work was  
 to convey in a popular way a general kind of  
 knowledge to persons not much versed in che-  
 mical inquiries; and so far we think his per-  
 formance may be useful, as it contains a variety  
 of

of observations that will be interesting to the English reader. As the subjects treated of in these volumes are but little allied to medical chemistry, we shall only mention the titles of the several essays contained in them, and add a few remarks that occurred to us in the perusal of the work.

Vol. I. Essay 1. *Of the rise and progress of chemistry.* 2. *Of the principal terms and operations used in chemistry.* 3. *Of saline substances.* 4. *Of fire, sulphur, and phlogiston.* 5. *Of the origin of subterraneous fires.* 6. *Of vitriols, and the reputed transmutation of iron into copper.* 7. *Of nitre or saltpetre, and the application of its acid to the inflammation of oils and the congelation of quicksilver.* 8. *Of the manner of making saltpetre in Europe, and of its generation.* 9. *On the manner of making saltpetre in the East Indies.*

Vol. II. Essay 1. *Of the composition and analysis of gun-powder.* 2. *Of common salt.* 3. *Of common salt and nitre as manures.* 4. *Of the saltiness and temperature of the sea.* 5. *Of fresh water procurable from sea water by congelation and distillation.* 6. *Of calcareous earths, crude and calcined.* 7. *Of clay, marle, and gypseous alabaster or plaster stone.* 8. *Of pit-coal.*

In

In the third essay of the first volume cream of tartar is spoken of as an acid, but the fact is, that it is a middle salt consisting of an alkali supersaturated with an acid. In the same essay, we are told, that "by burning cream of tartar, salt of tartar or an alkali is prepared, the acid being probably changed into an alkali by fire." It is certain, however, that an acid was never yet converted either by art or nature into an alkali, and by the process alluded to we procure a salt of tartar merely because the acid is expelled by the heat while the alkali remains.

Among the characters that serve to distinguish alkalis from acids, Dr. Watson enumerates the caustic and fiery taste of the former, and their effervescence with acids; but he should have remarked, that they have this caustic and fiery taste only when calcined, in which state they do not effervesce with acids.

In the essay on pit-coal we meet with the following curious quotation from Van Helmont, which proves that he was acquainted with what we now call inflammable air: "Ructus sive flatus originalis in stomacho prout et flatus ilei extinguunt flammam candelæ; stercoreus autem flatus, qui in ultimis formatur intestinis, atque per anum erumpit, transmissus, per  
" flam-



“ flammam candelæ tranſvolando accenditur, ac  
 “ flammam diverſi coloris, iridis inſtar expri-  
 “ mit.” Van Helmont, *Oper.* p. 405.

4. Diſſertatio medica inauguralis de uſu aquæ  
 frigidæ externo topico. Auctore *Nathanaele*  
*Erneſto Dauter*, Gedanenſi. 4to. Gottingæ, 1780.  
 p. 67.

5. Diſſertatio inauguralis de lactis metaſtaſi-  
 bus. Auctore *Nathanaele Berendt*, Gedanenſi.  
 4to. Gottingæ, 1780, p. 68.

6. A review of Mr. Aitken's outlines of the  
 theory and cure of Fever, on plain and rational  
 principles. With a poetical addreſs to Non-  
 ſenſe. 8vo. Edinburgh, 1781, 24 pages. 6d.

7. The Phyſician's Vade Mecum: or a concise  
 ſyſtem of the practice of phyſic. Extracted  
 from the writings of the moſt eminent phyſicians.  
 8vo. Robinſon, 1781. 146 pages. 2s. 6d.

8. Ragionamento Fiſico-chirurgico, &c. *i. e.*  
 A medico-chirurgical diſſertation on the effects of  
 muſic in nervous diſorders. By *Lewis Deſbout*,  
 ſurgeon to the Royal Tufcan Regiment, and  
 Profeſſor of Surgery in the General Hoſpital at  
 Leghorn. 8vo. Leghorn, 1780.

The caſe of a young woman who was troubled  
 with convulſions, and experienced relief from  
 muſic, gave occaſion it ſeems to this publica-

tion. To this history the author has added a collection of similar facts from different writers, after which he endeavours to establish a theory of the effects of harmony in spasmodic affection.

9. De l'influence des affections de l'ame dans les maladies nerveuses des femmes, avec le traitement qui convient à ces maladies. *i. e.* Of the influence of the affections of the mind in nervous disorders in women, with the treatment proper in those diseases. By M. de Beauchene, M. D. Physician to the Comte de Provence. 8vo. Montpellier, 1781. 207 p.

10. An a pertinaci labore mors? Differtatio inauguralis. Auctore Joanne Francisco Martinet. 4to. Nancy, 1781.

The author describes the ill effects of abstruse study.

11. Differtatio inauguralis medica de hæmorrhagia uteri partum insequente. Auctore Frederico Bezold. 4to. Strasburgh, 1780. p. 42.

#### E R R A T A.

Page 134, line 19, *after* Paris, *add*, aged 79 years.—p. 179, l. 24, and p. 180, l. 4, *for* 'nitrous aid' *read* 'nitrous air.'—p. 227, l. 19, *for* 'M. Sage' *read* 'M. Cadet.'—p. 238, l. 18, *for* 'put it off' *read* 'purge it off.'

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